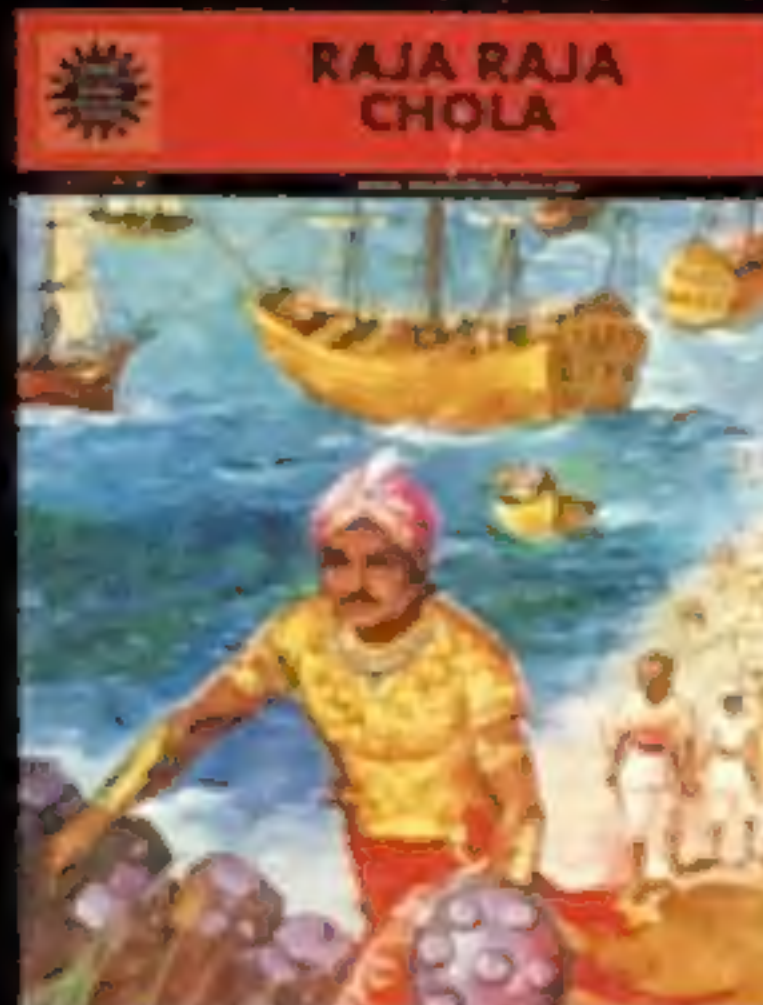


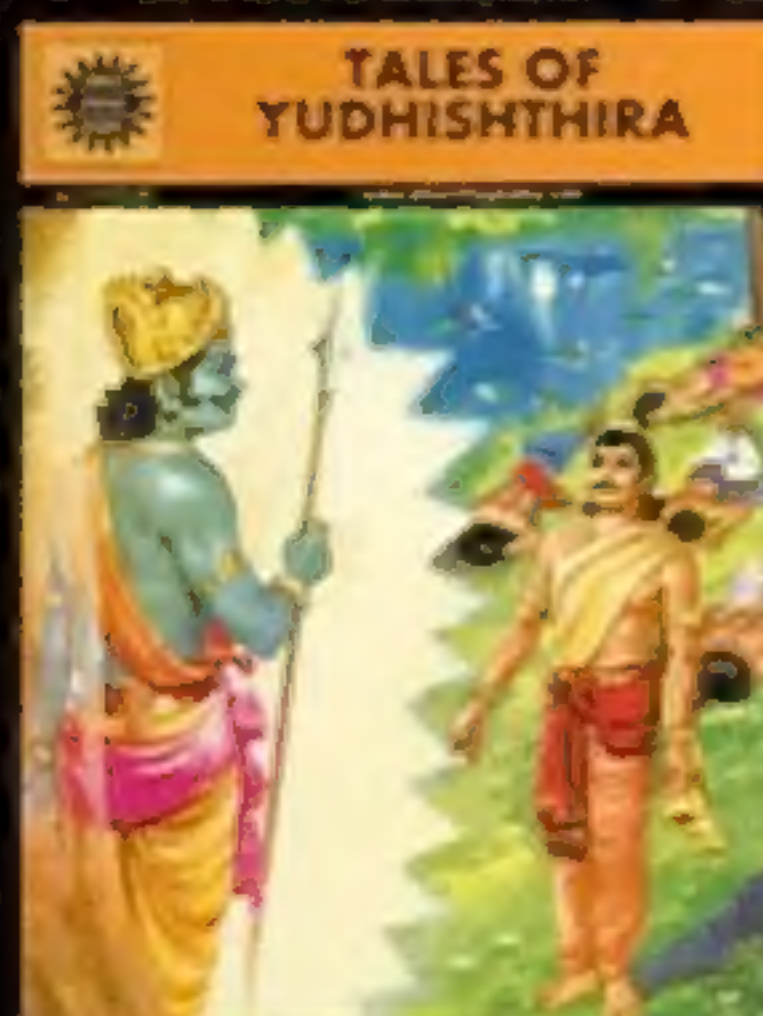
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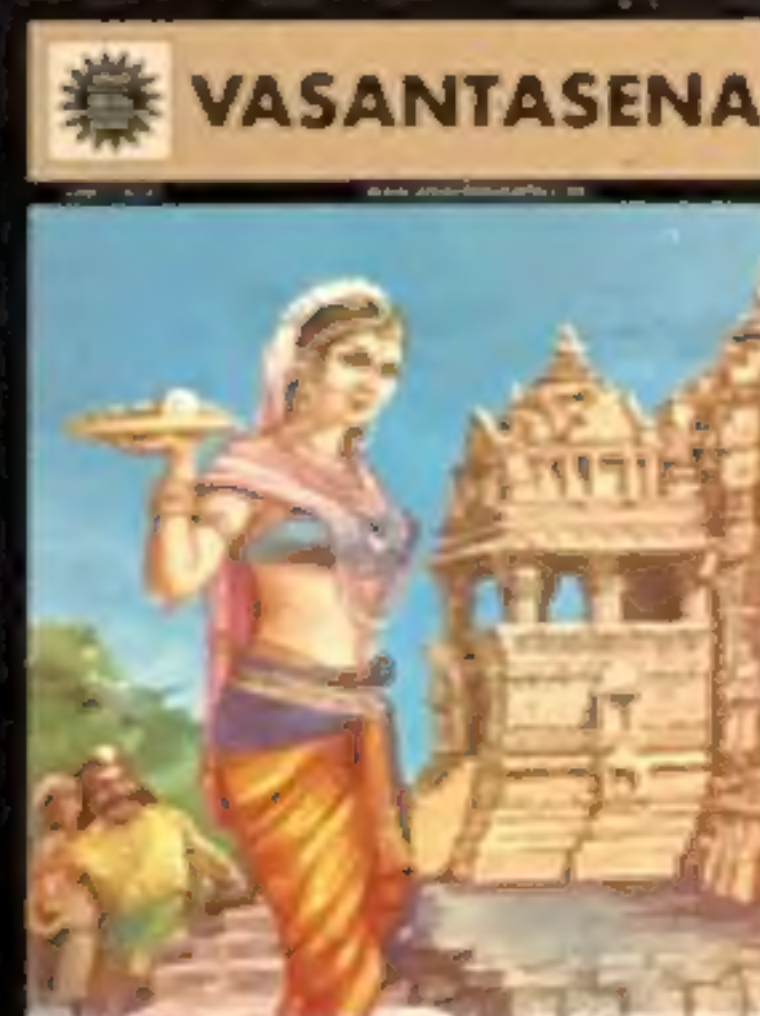
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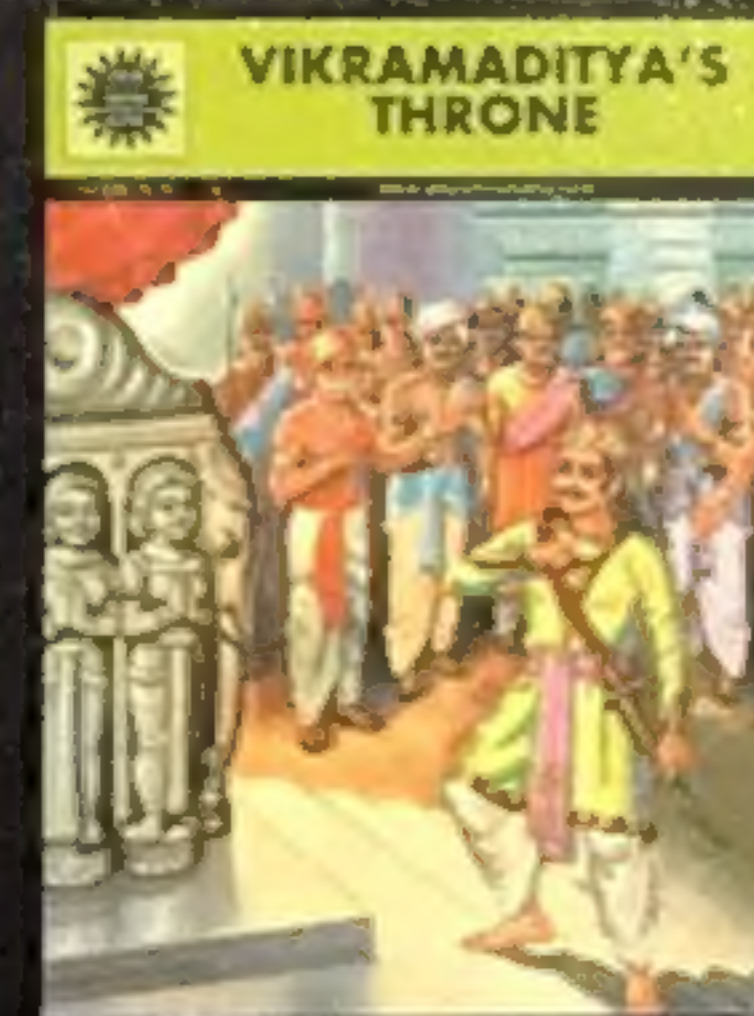
ALSO LOOK FOR:



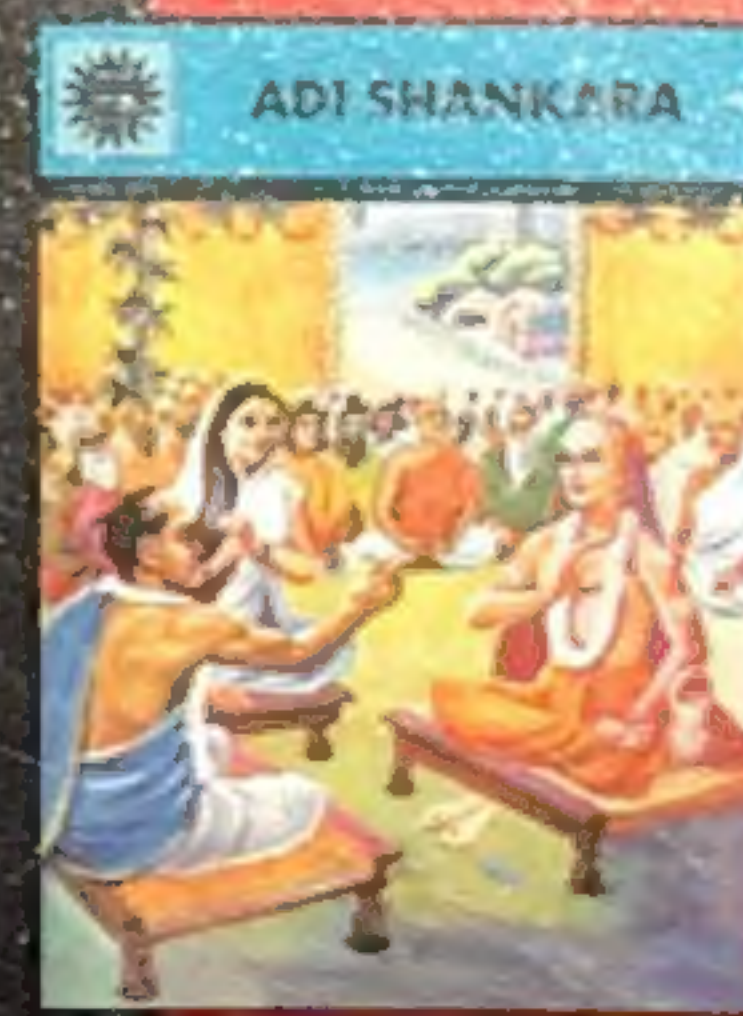
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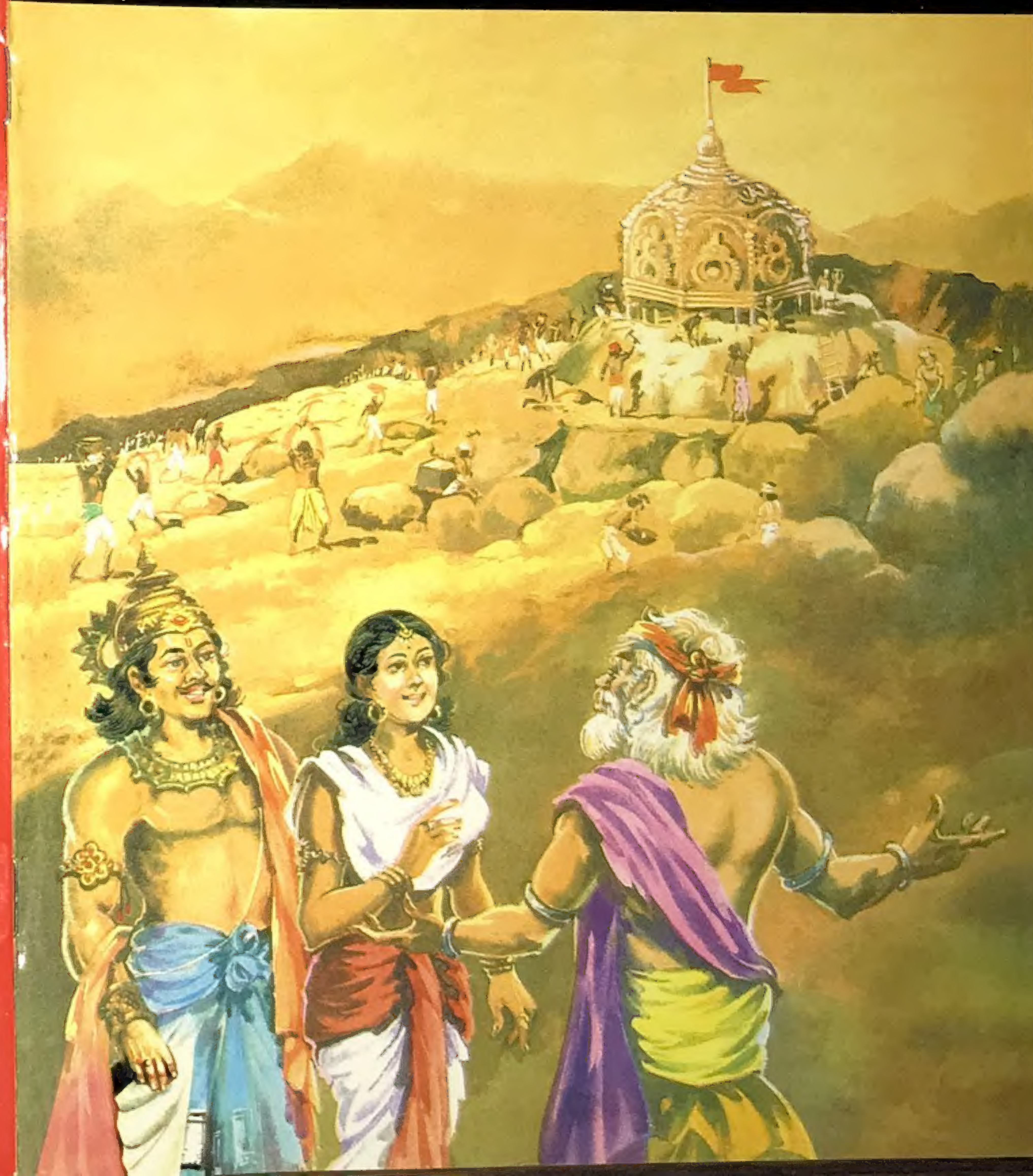
BRAVEHEARTS



ELLORA CAVES

THE GLORY OF THE RASHTRAKOOTAS

Vol 731 | ₹50



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The Glory of the Rashtrakootas

IN THE 8TH CENTURY A.D. A NEW EMPIRE WAS ABOUT TO RISE IN CENTRAL INDIA. INDRA, THE RULER OF ELLICHPUR PRINCIPALITY OF THE CHALUKYAN EMPIRE, NURSED AMBITIONS OF EXTENDING THE AREA OF HIS INFLUENCE.

OUR FOREFATHERS EMIGRATED TO ELLICHPUR SEVERAL GENERATIONS AGO AND CARVED A PRINCIPALITY FOR THEMSELVES HERE.



... A KINGDOM SHOULD GROW.



... BUT TO GROW I NEED SUPPORT. I MUST HAVE STRONG ALLIES.

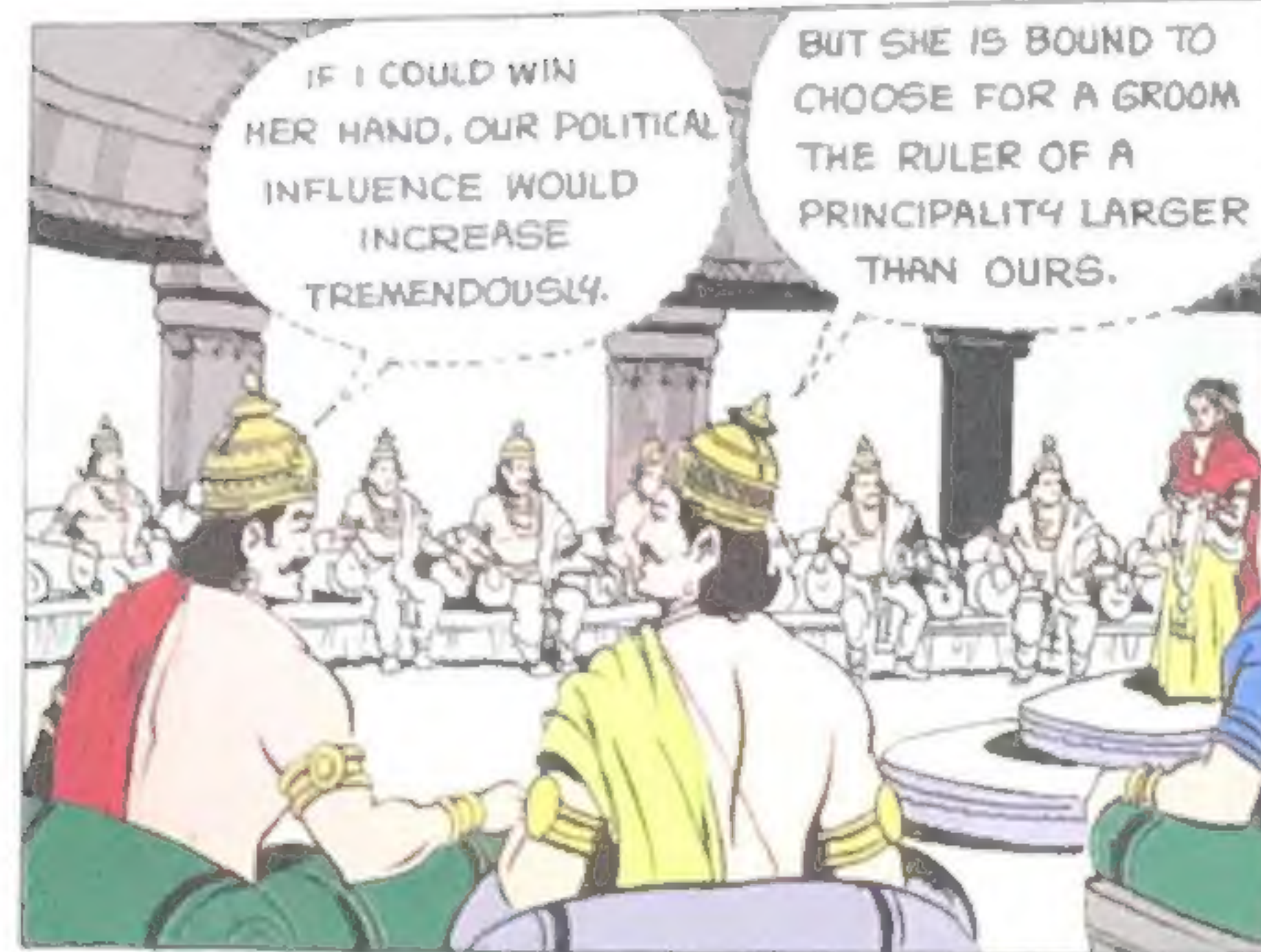


SO WHEN THE WEDDING OF CHALUKYA KING PULAKESHI'S DAUGHTER WAS ARRANGED —

KRISHNA, PRINCESS BHAVANAGA IS GOING TO SELECT HER HUSBAND TODAY.

YES, BROTHER.





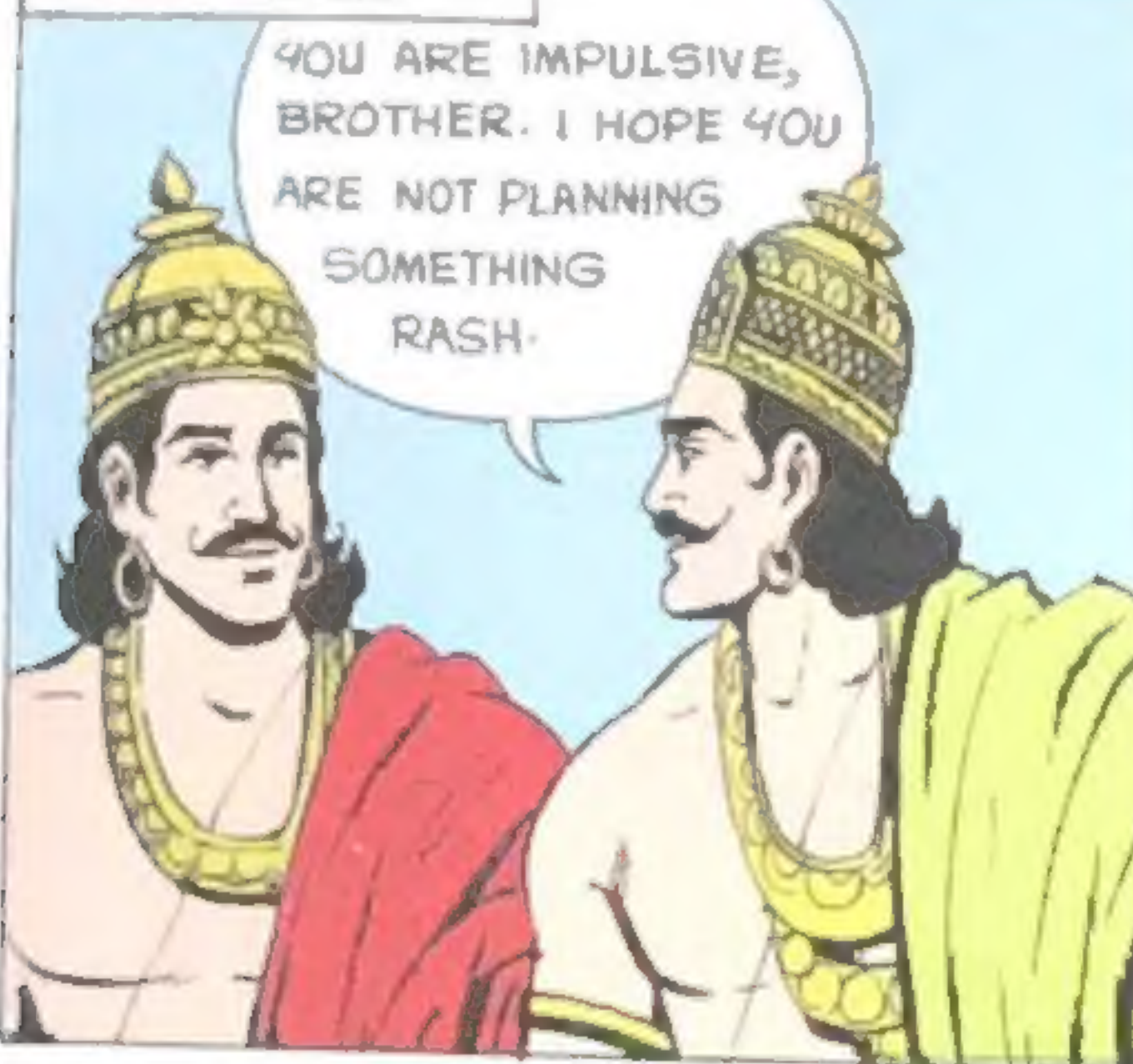
IF I COULD WIN HER HAND, OUR POLITICAL INFLUENCE WOULD INCREASE TREMENDOUSLY.

BUT SHE IS BOUND TO CHOOSE FOR A GROOM THE RULER OF A PRINCIPALITY LARGER THAN OURS.



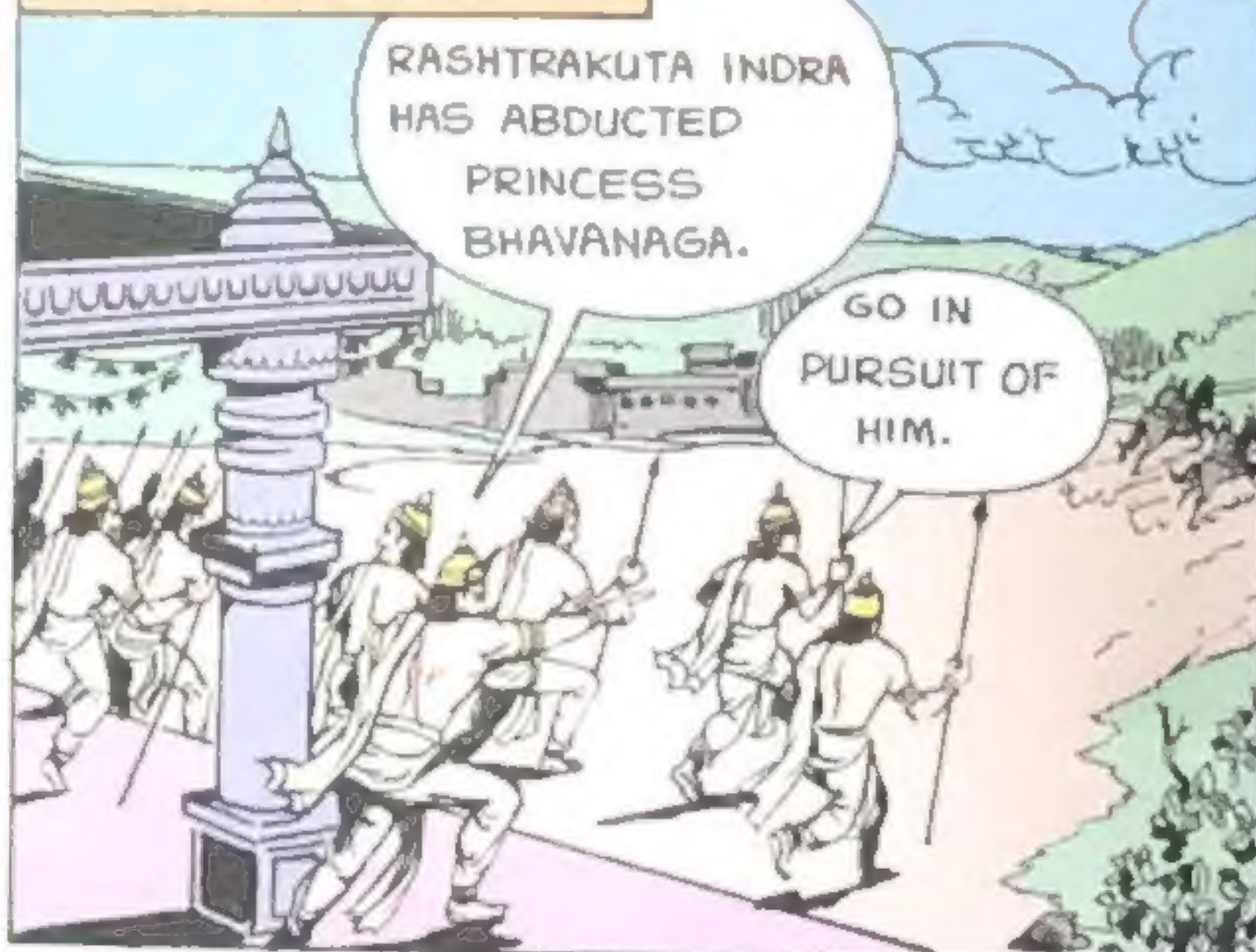
IF SHE DOES THAT, I WILL MISS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME.

KRISHNA NOTICED A STRANGE TINKLE IN INDRA'S EYES —



YOU ARE IMPULSIVE, BROTHER. I HOPE YOU ARE NOT PLANNING SOMETHING RASH.

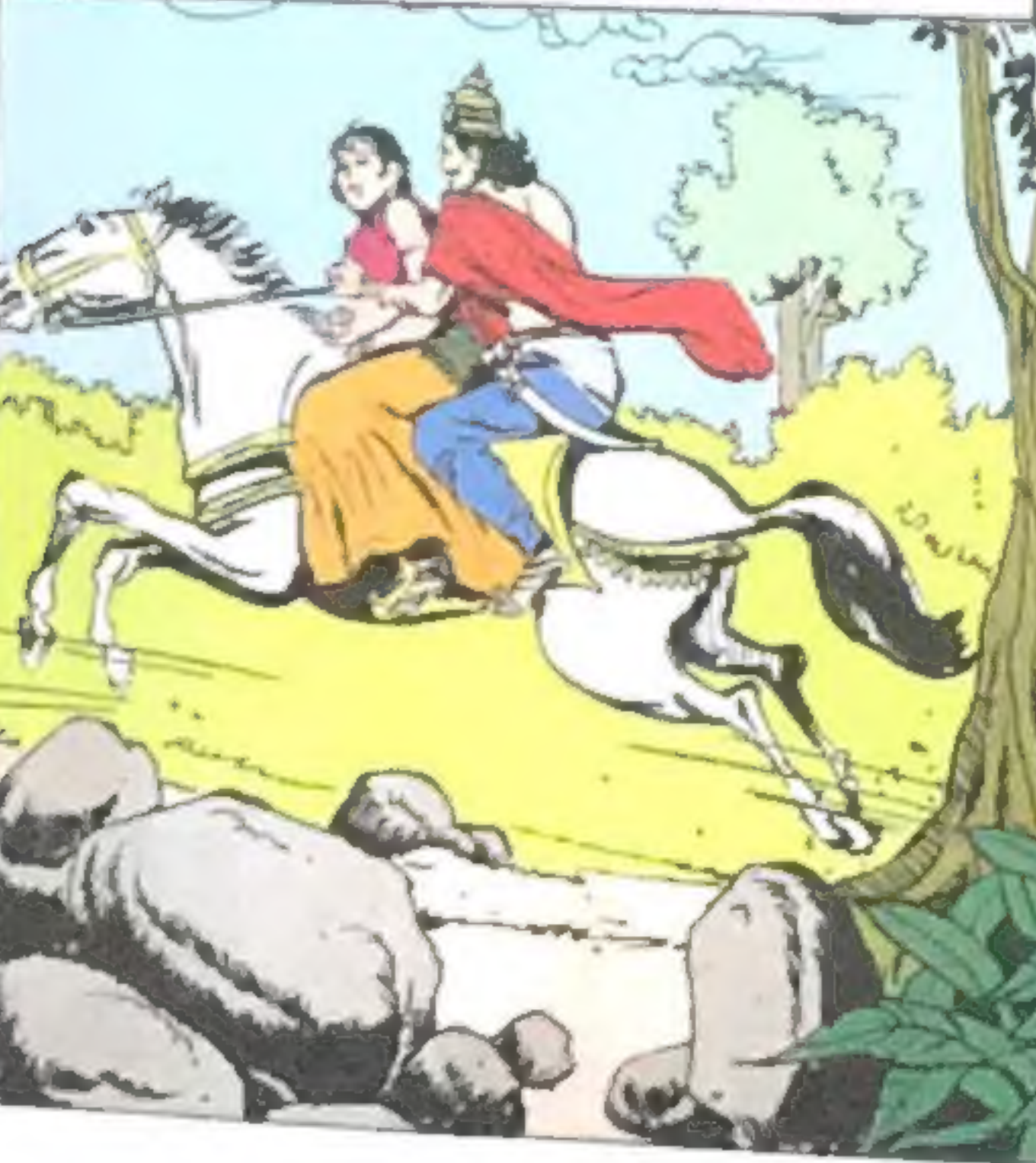
INDRA WAS PLANNING PRECISELY THAT. SO ON THE DAY OF THE WEDDING —



RASHTRAKUTA INDRA HAS ABDUCTED PRINCESS BHAVANAGA.

GO IN PURSUIT OF HIM.

BUT INDRA MANAGED TO REACH ELLICHPUR SAFELY WITH HIS ABDUCTED BRIDE...



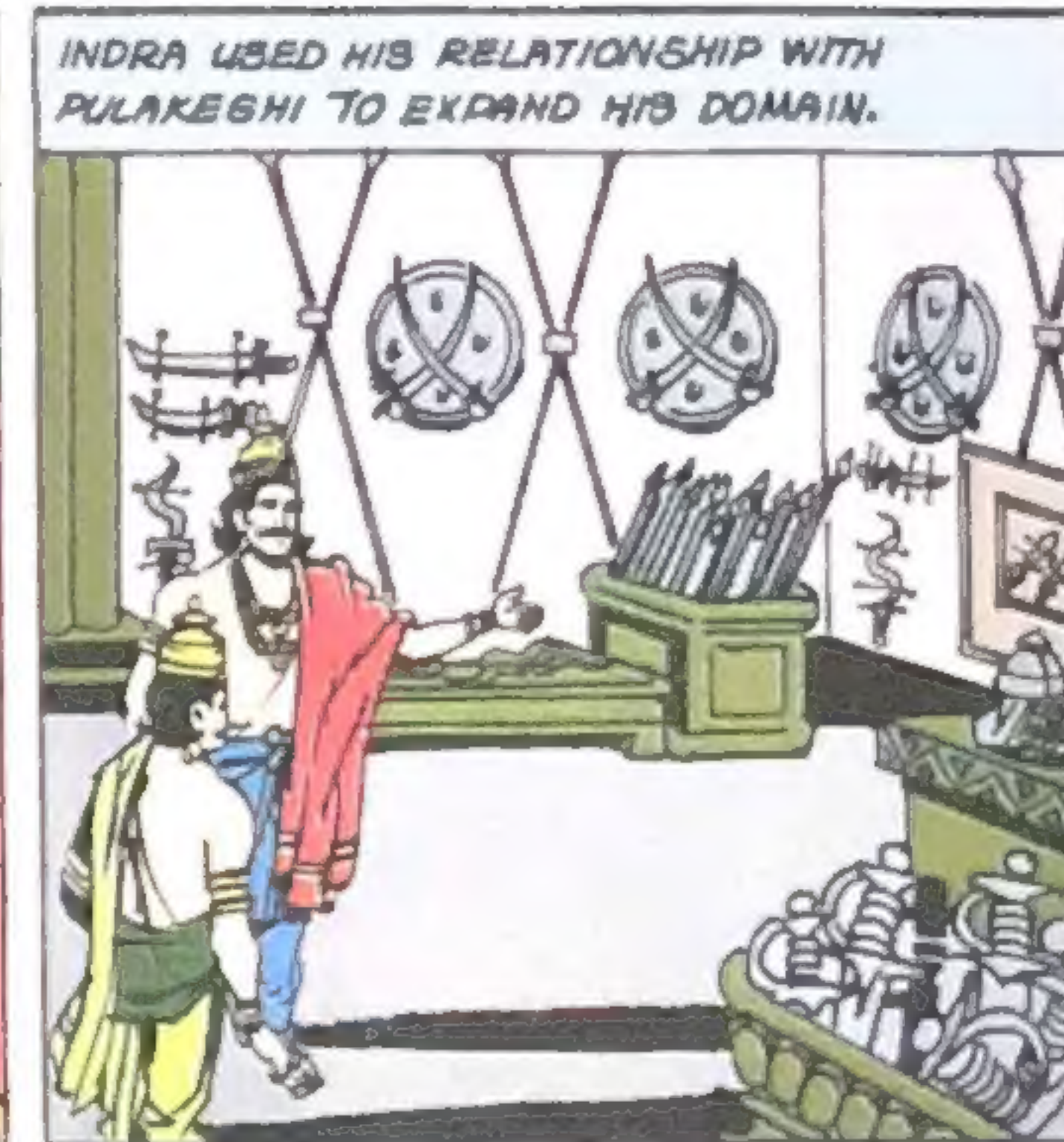
... AND THERE HE MARRIED HER.



PULAKESHI WAS VERY ANGRY WITH INDRA. BUT THEIR RELATIONS BECAME FRIENDLY BY THE TIME INDRA AND BHAVANAGA'S FIRST SON DANTIDURGA WAS BORN.



YOUR FATHER HAS SENT HIS GRANDSON FABULOUS GIFTS.

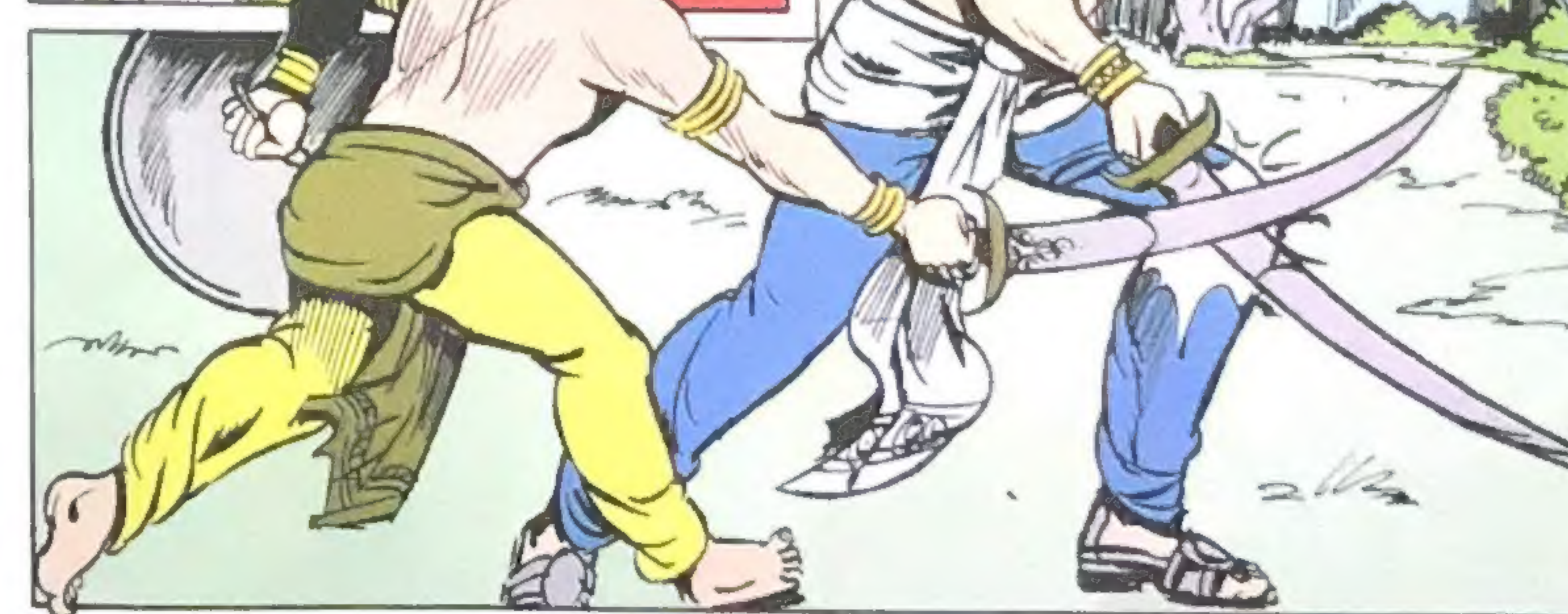


INDRA USED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH PULAKESHI TO EXPAND HIS DOMAIN.

DANTIDURGA GREW UP IN AN ATMOSPHERE CHARGED WITH THE AMBITION AND DRIVE OF HIS FATHER.

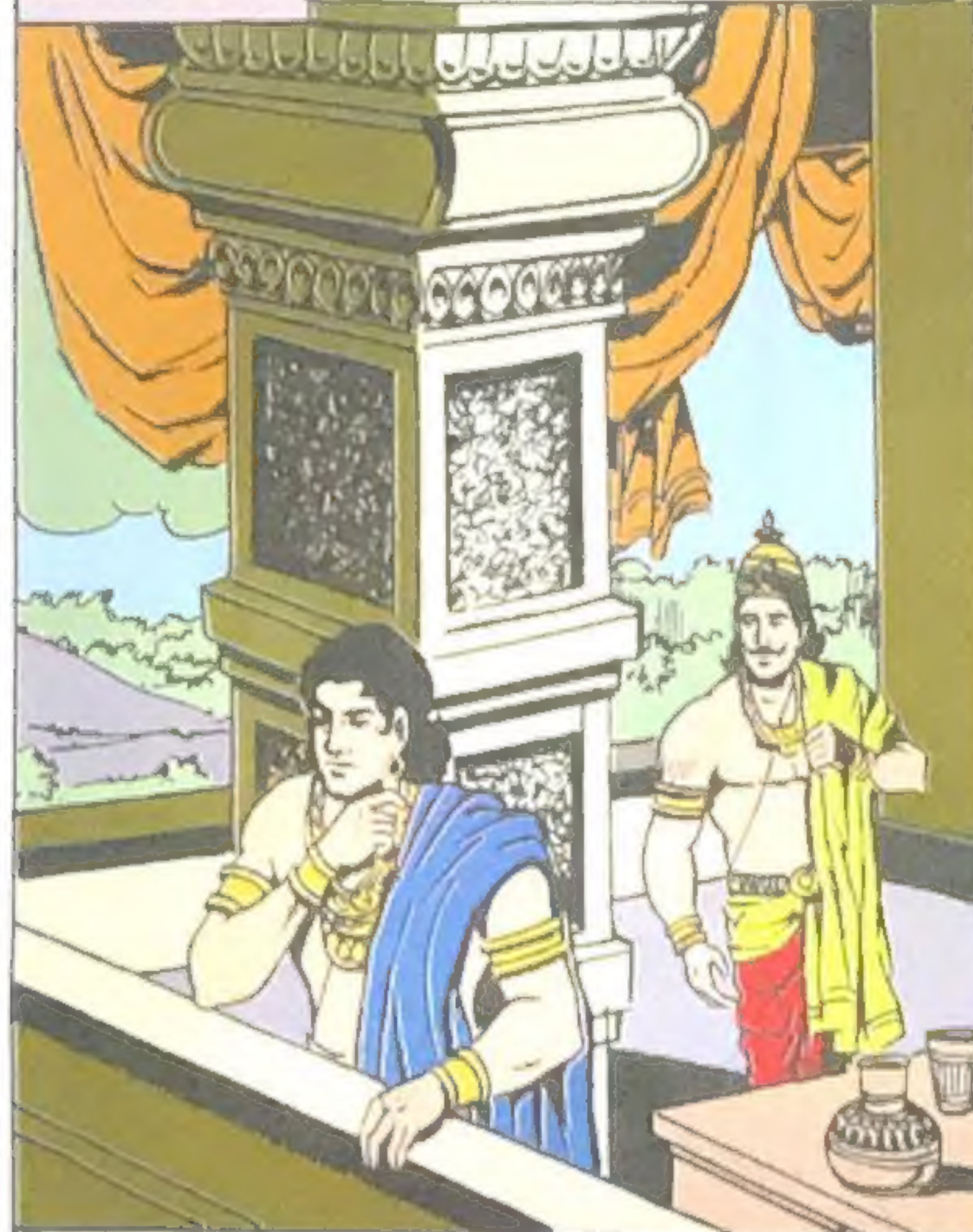


CONCENTRATE AND TAKE CAREFUL AIM.

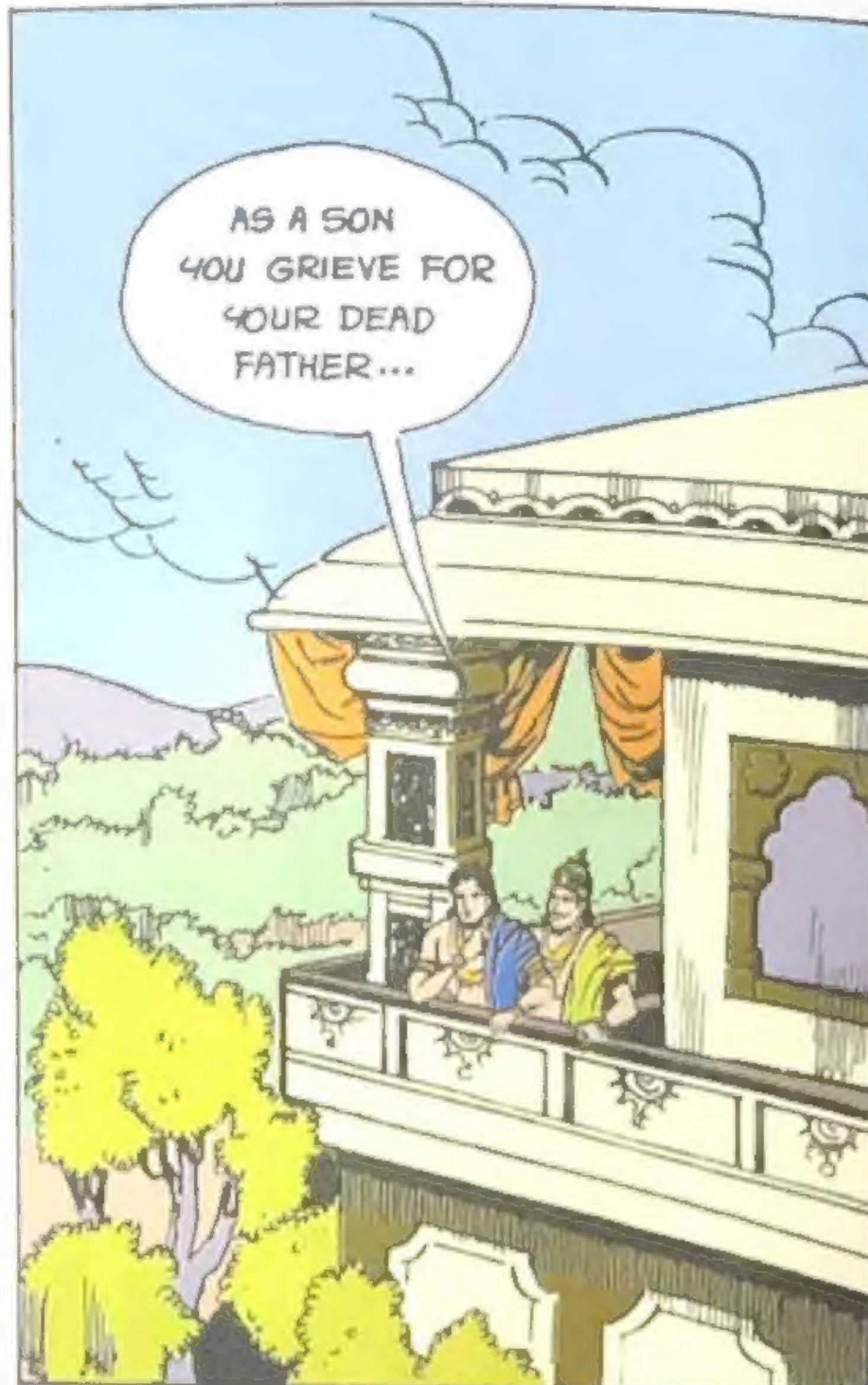


YOU MUST TRAIN YOURSELF TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER. ONLY A GOOD SOLDIER CAN BE A GOOD GENERAL.

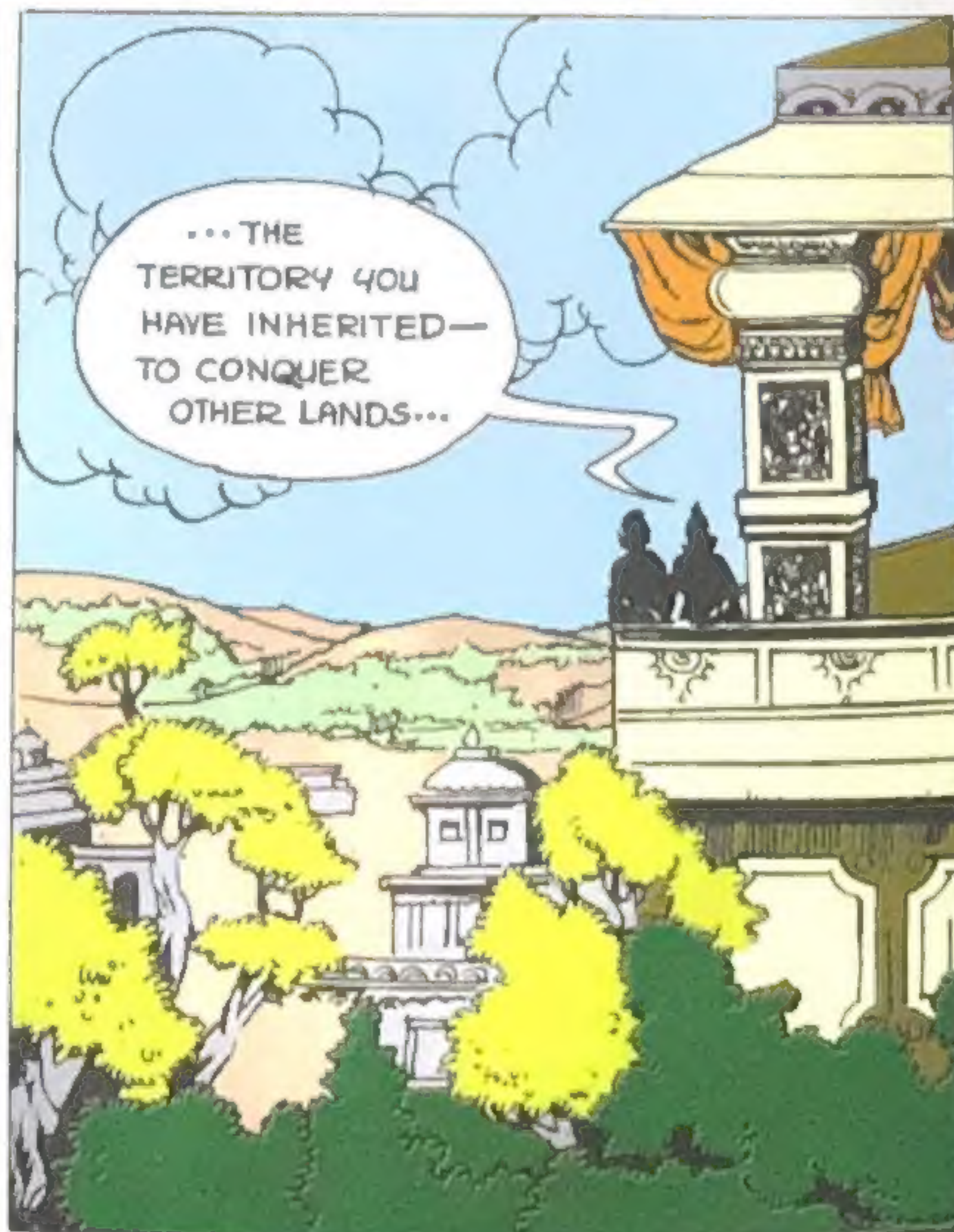
IN A.D. 733, INDRA DIED LEAVING BEHIND HIS BROTHER KRISHNA AND HIS ONLY SON DANTIDURGA.



AS A SON
YOU GRIEVE FOR
YOUR DEAD
FATHER...



...THE
TERRITORY YOU
HAVE INHERITED—
TO CONQUER
OTHER LANDS...



...AS THE
YUVARAJA, YOU HAVE
TO STEEL YOURSELF
AGAINST SORROW SO
AS TO RULE...



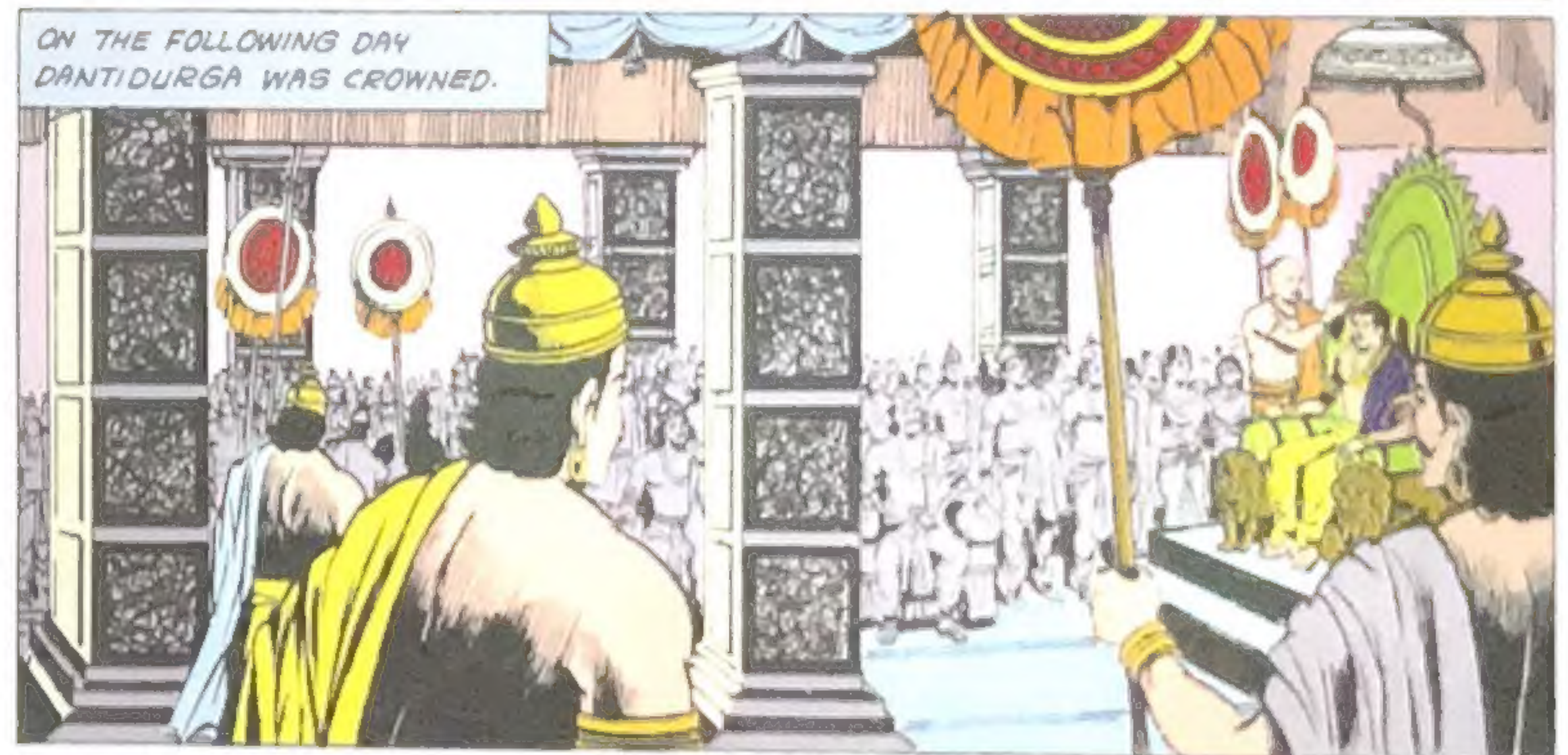
...TO BRING
GLORY TO THE
RASHTRAKOOTAS.



YES, UNCLE. I
WILL STRIVE HARD
TO BRING GLORY
TO THE
RASHTRAKOOTAS.



ON THE FOLLOWING DAY
DANTIDURGA WAS CROWNED.



RASHTRAKOOTAS WERE STILL
VASSALS OF THE CHALUKYAN
EMPEROR.

NOW YOU HAVE TO
MAKE A JOURNEY TO
BADAMI AND PAY
YOUR RESPECT
TO THE
EMPEROR.

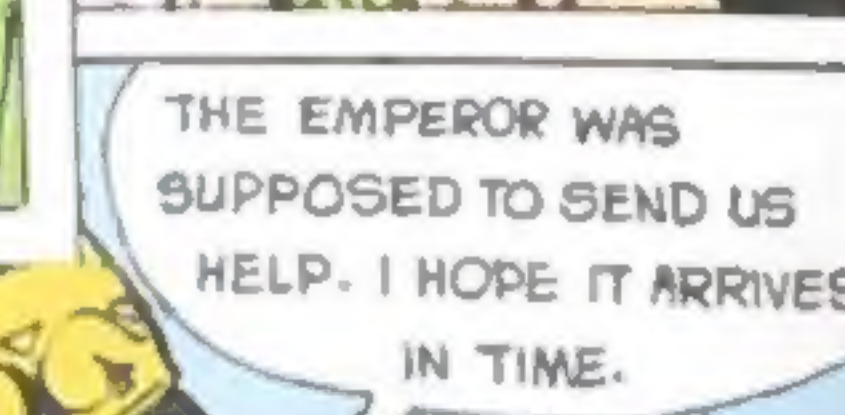
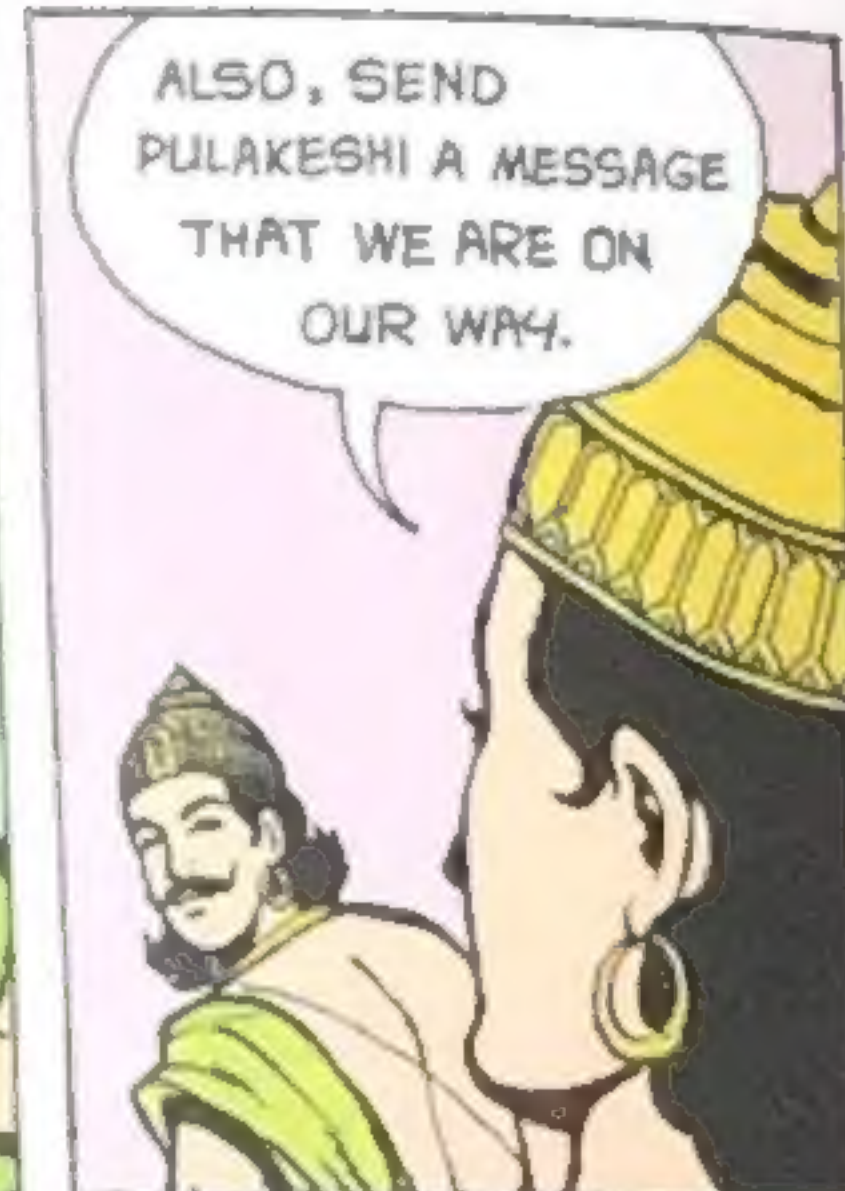
I WILL,
UNCLE.



WHEN DANTIDURGA CALLED ON THE EMPEROR, VIKRAMADITYA II —

YOUR LATE FATHER WAS
LIKE A RIGHT ARM TO ME.
YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS
AND GOOD
WISHES.

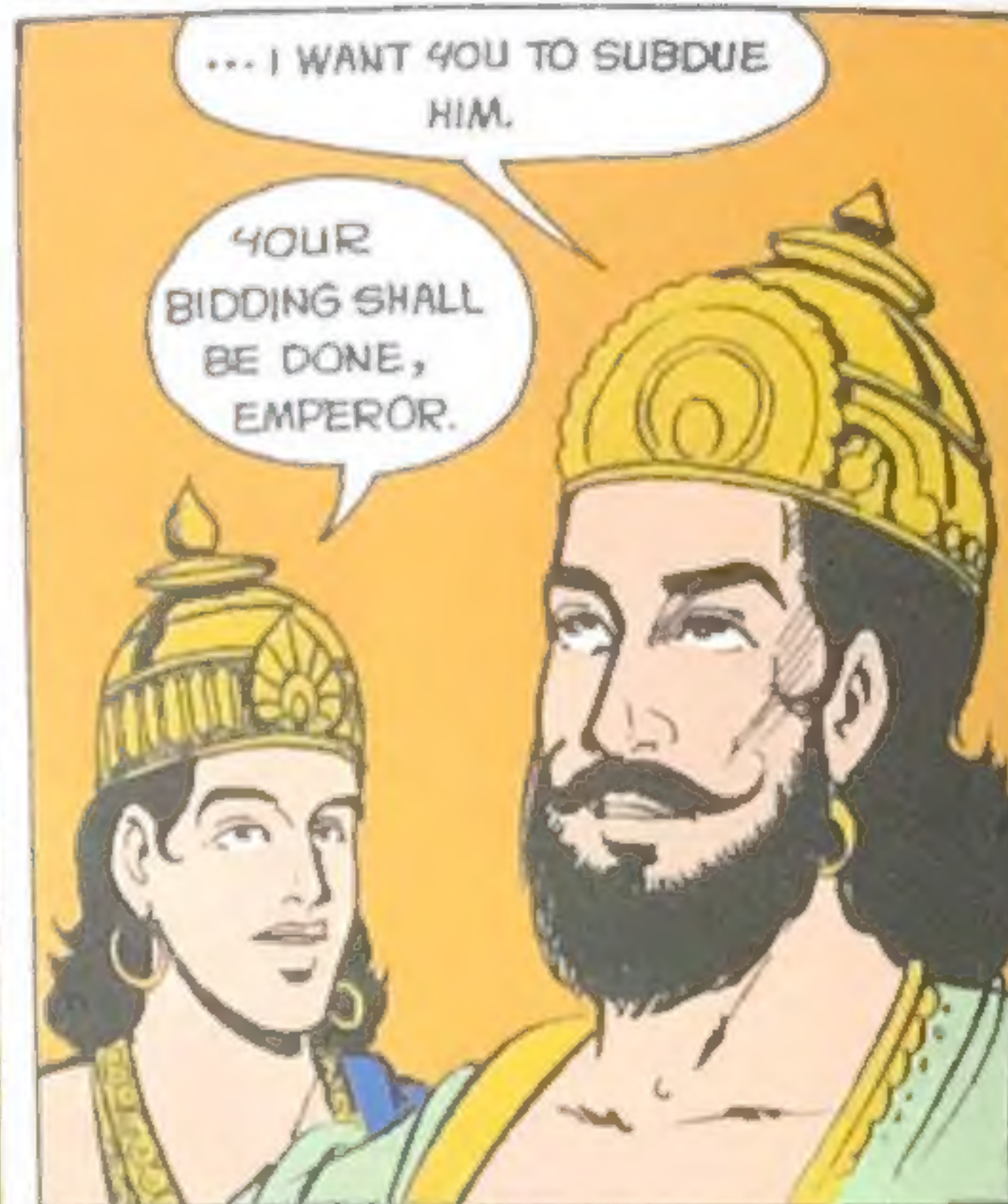




THE VALOUR SHOWN BY THE RASHTRAKOOTA KING HAD STRENGTHENED EMPEROR VIKRAMADITYA'S FAITH IN HIM. HE RELIED ON DANTIDURGA TO SOLVE TICKLISH ISSUES —



PRITHVIVALLABHA, NANDIVARMAN, THE PALLAVA OF KANCHI, IS CAUSING TROUBLE ON MY SOUTHERN BORDERS...



... I WANT YOU TO SUBDUCE HIM.

YOUR BIDDING SHALL BE DONE, EMPEROR.

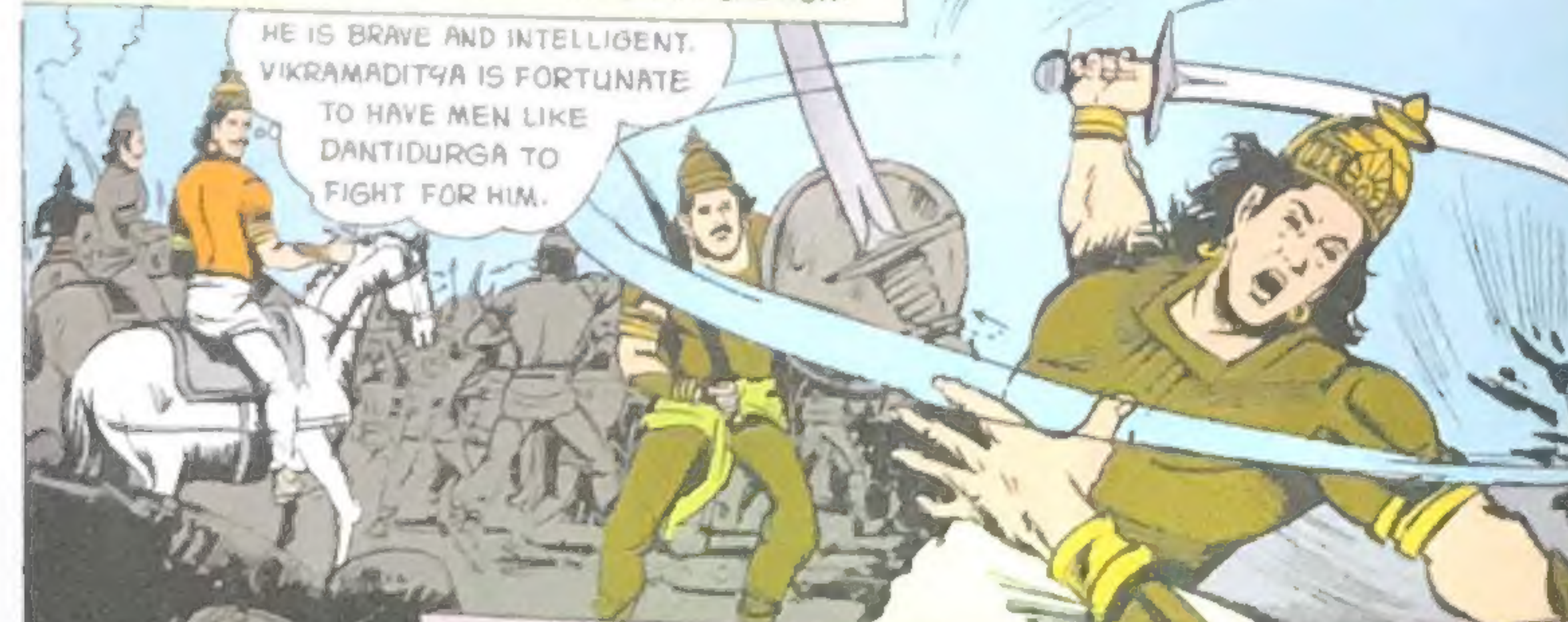


I CAN'T HELP ADMIRING HIS COURAGE AND DETERMINATION.

THE PALLAVA NANDIVARMAN TURNED OUT TO BE A POWERFUL ADVERSARY —



DANTIDURGA PLANNED EACH MOVE WITH GREAT CAUTION.



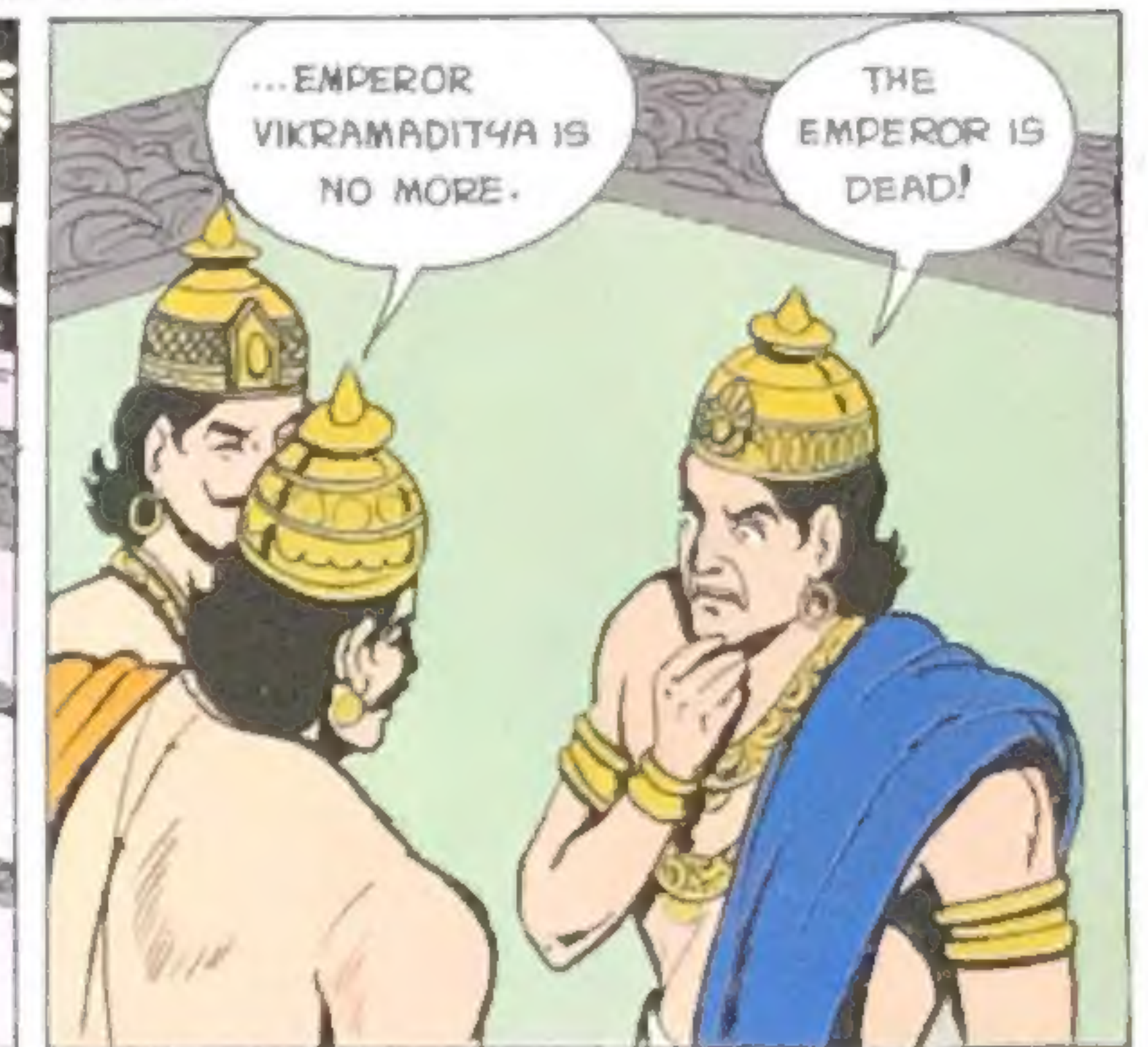
HE IS BRAVE AND INTELLIGENT. VIKRAMADITYA IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE MEN LIKE DANTIDURGA TO FIGHT FOR HIM.

AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE NANDIVARMAN FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED DEFEAT.

FOUR YEARS LATER —



MAHARAJ, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU VERY SAD NEWS...



... EMPEROR VIKRAMADITYA IS NO MORE.

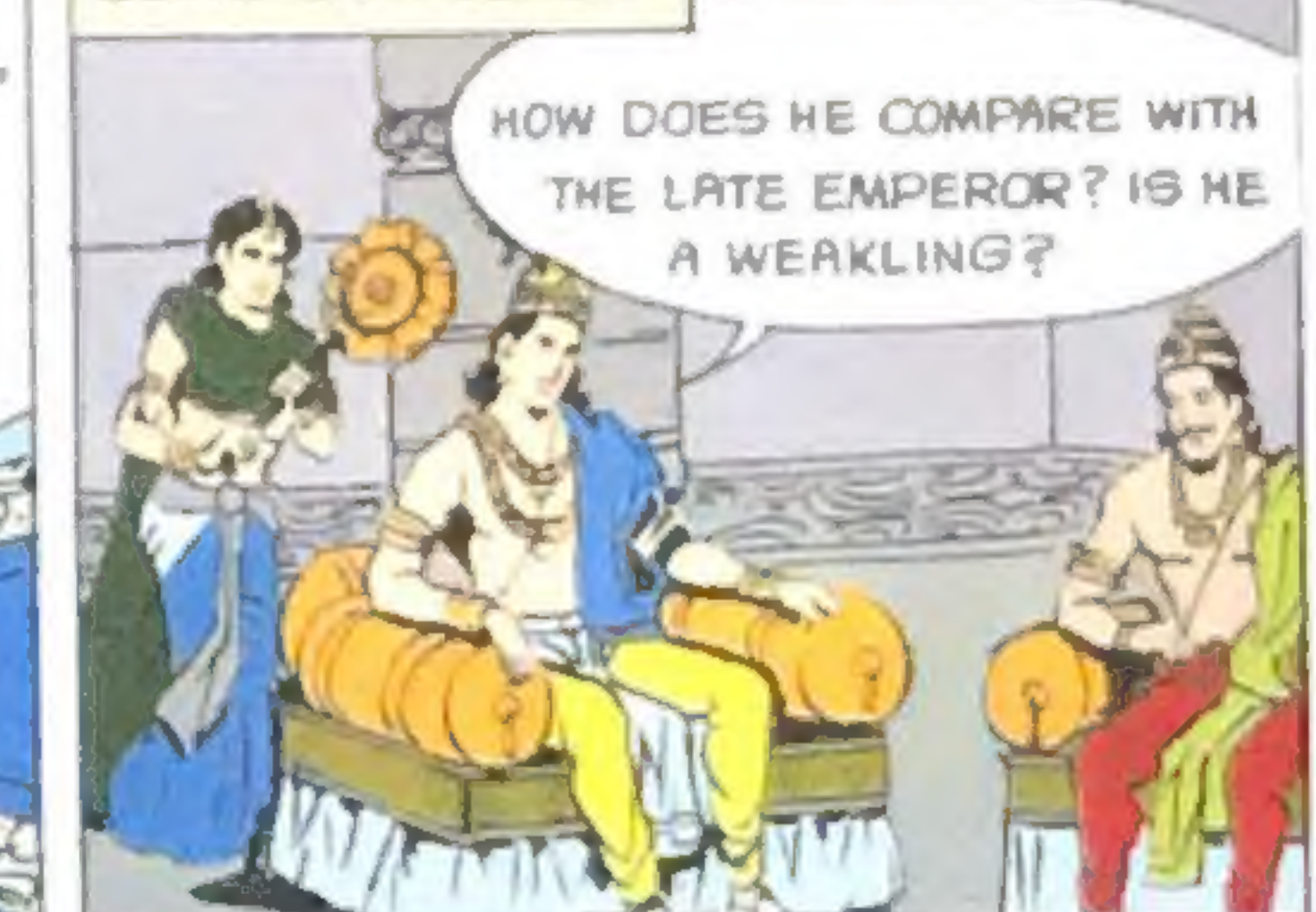
THE EMPEROR IS DEAD!

DANTIDURGA MOURNED THE DEATH OF VIKRAMADITYA.



HE WAS BORN TO LEAD. HIMSELF A GREAT CONQUEROR, HE INSPIRED TREMENDOUS COURAGE AND LOYALTY.

KEERTIVARMAN WHO SUCCEEDED VIKRAMADITYA FAILED TO WIN THE RESPECT OF HIS VASSALS, PROMINENT AMONG THEM BEING DANTIDURGA.

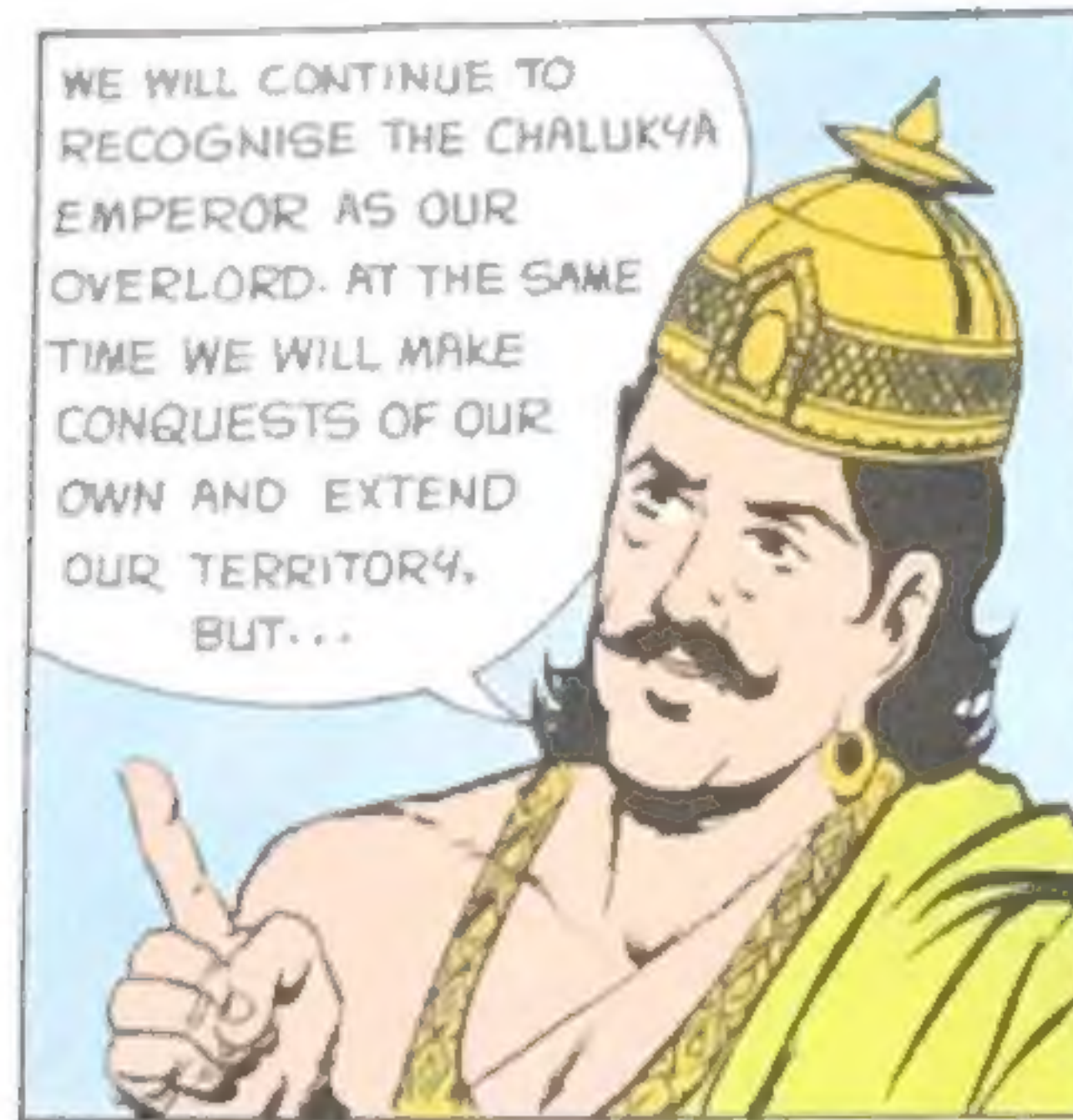


HOW DOES HE COMPARE WITH THE LATE EMPEROR? IS HE A WEAKLING?



GIVE HIM TIME TO SETTLE DOWN, DANTIDURGA. GIVE HIM TIME.

MEANWHILE WHAT SHOULD BE OUR POLICY?



IN PURSUIT OF THIS POLICY DANTIDURGA ADDED TO HIS POSSESSIONS THE GURJARA KINGDOM OF NANDIPURA...



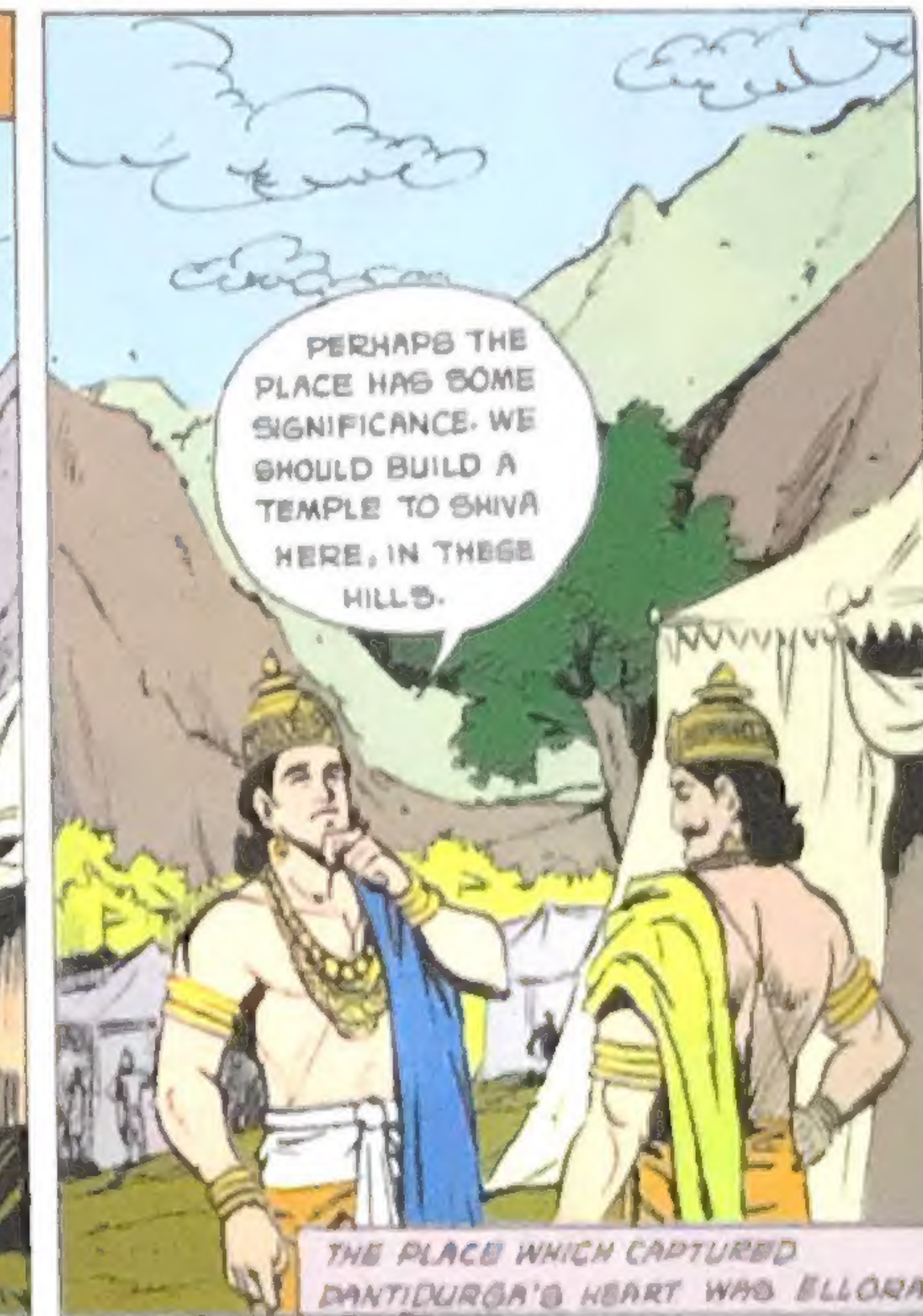
... AND APPOINTED HIS NEPHEW KARKHA HIS REGENT.

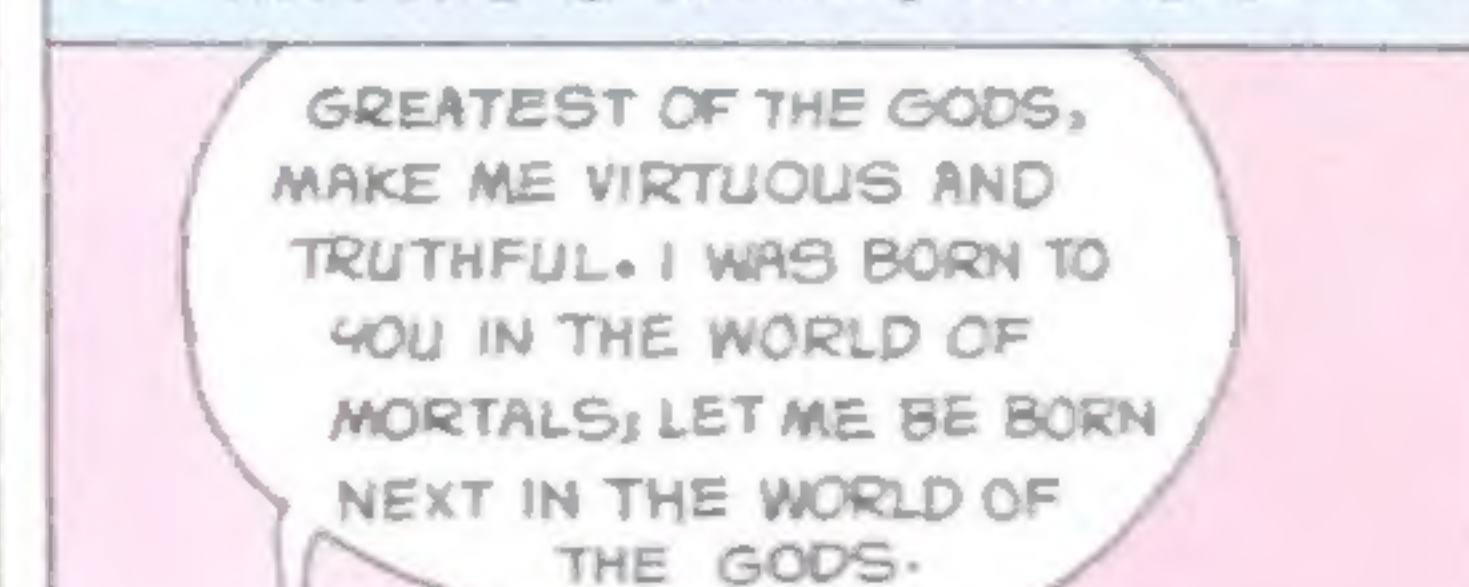
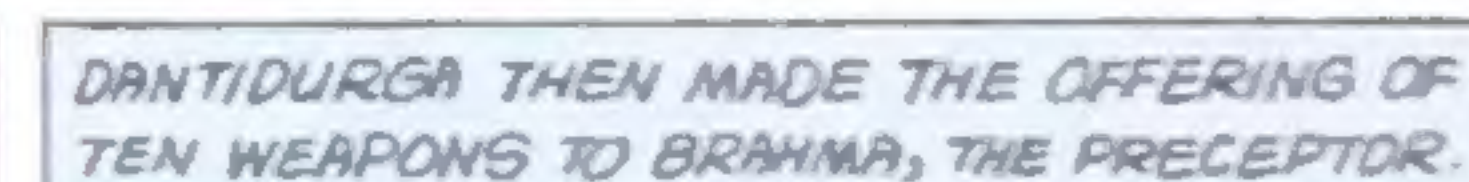
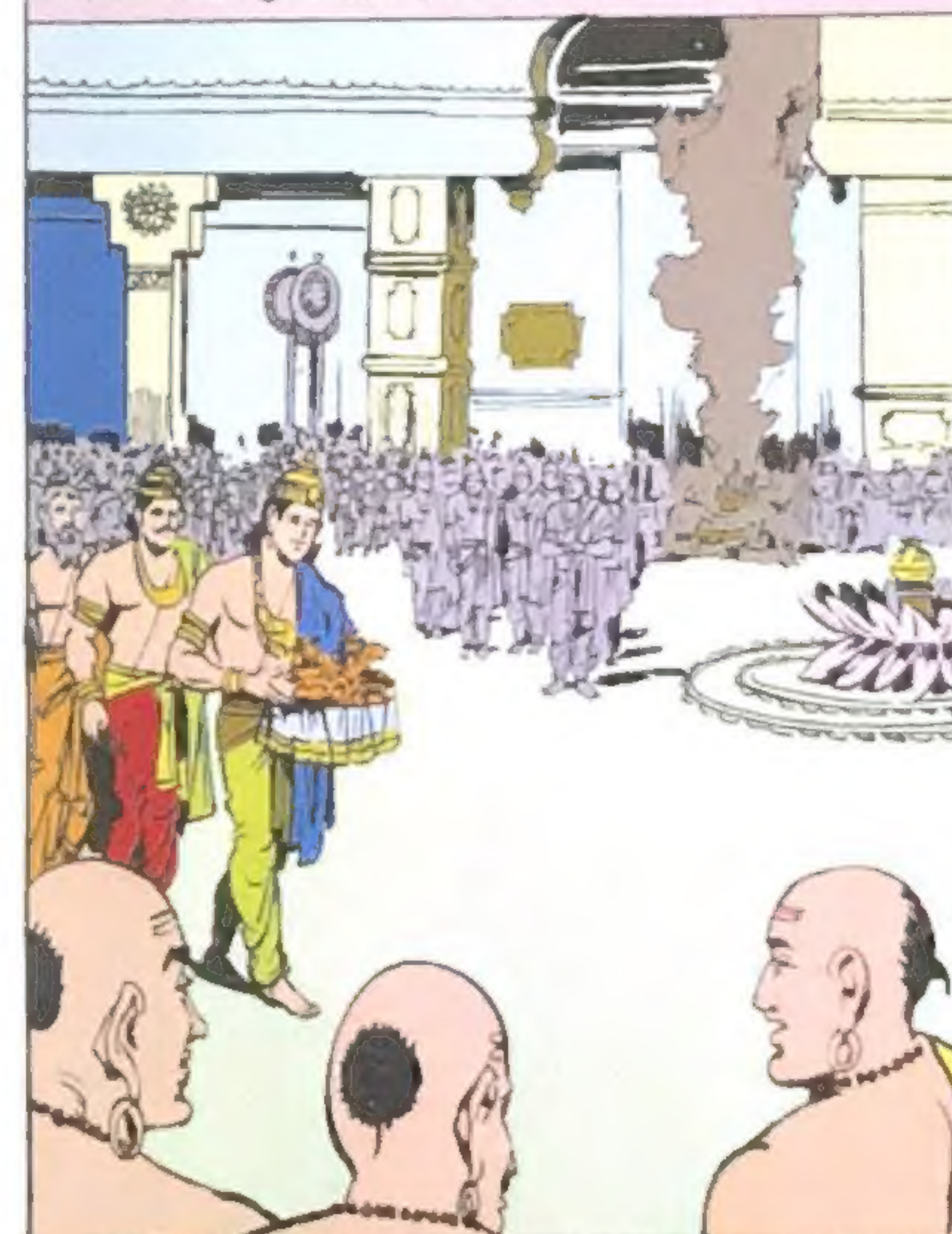
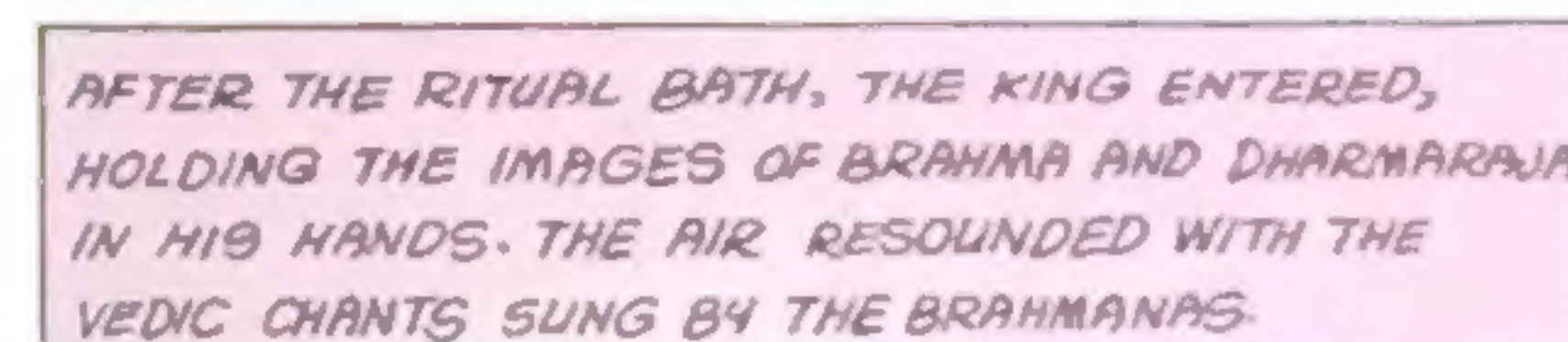
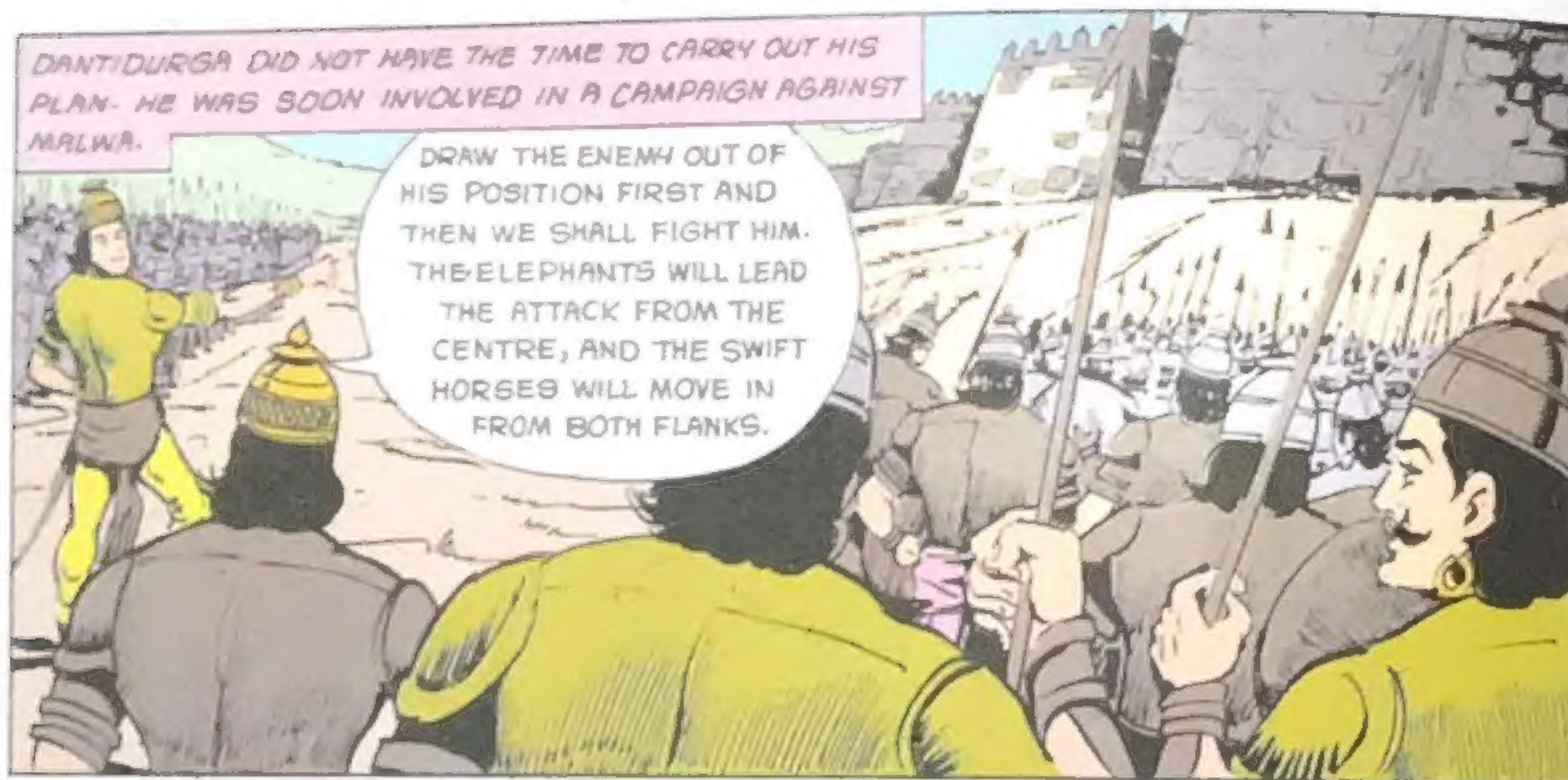


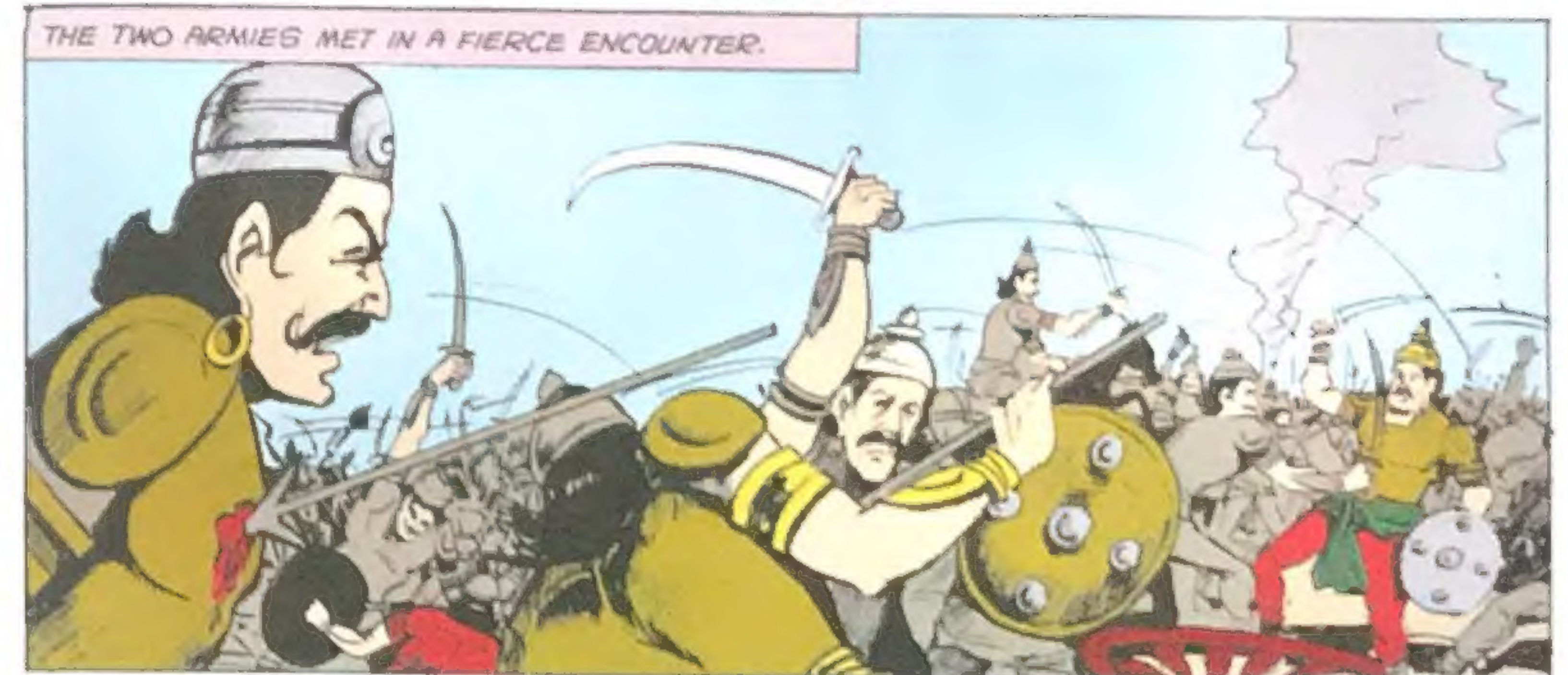
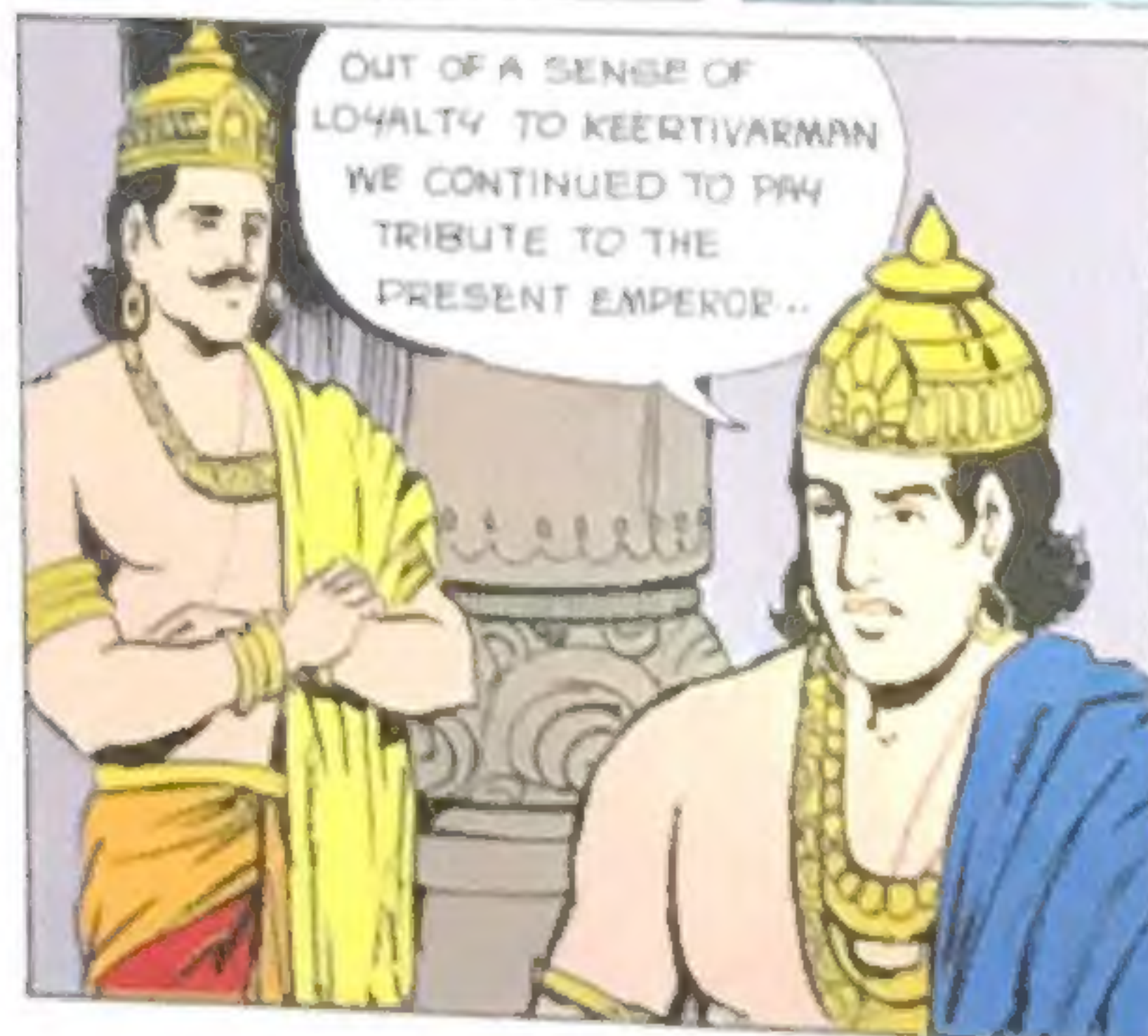
WHILE ON HIS WAY BACK AFTER A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN—



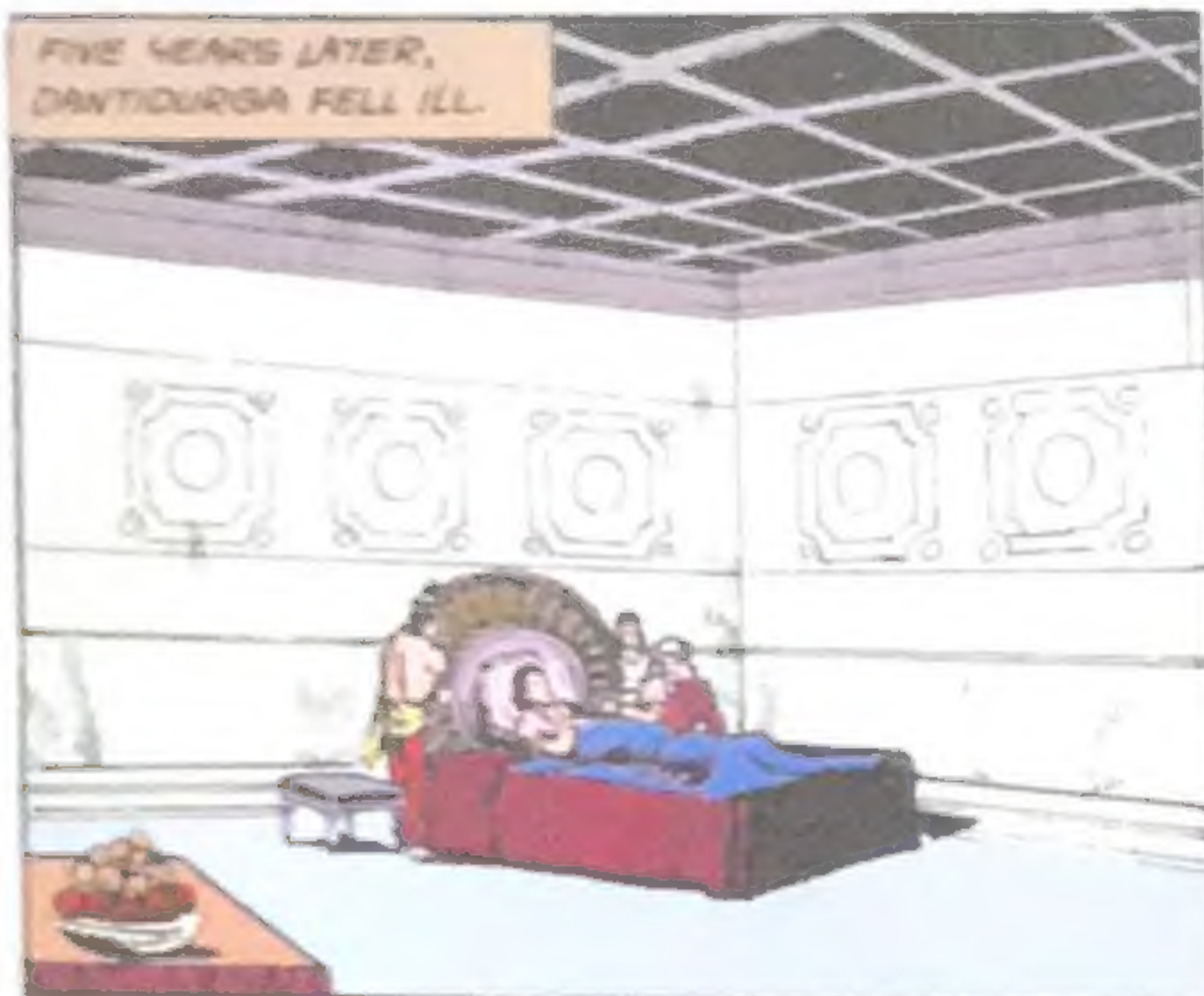
ROYAL TENTS WERE PITCHED NEAR THE BEAUTIFUL HILLS. NEXT MORNING—



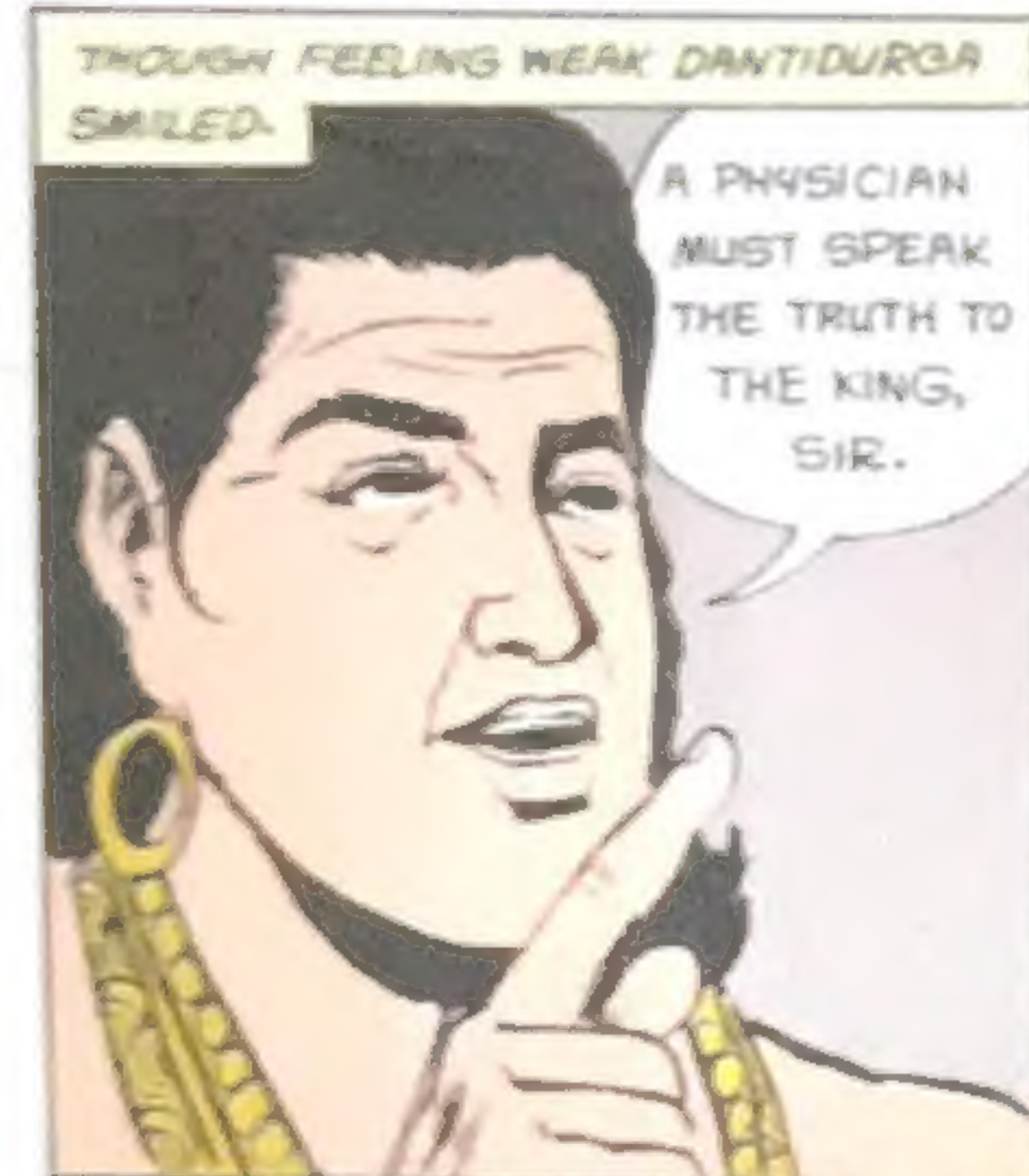




FIVE YEARS LATER,
DANTIDURGA FELL ILL.



MAHARAJ, YOU
WILL GET WELL
SOON.



THOUGH FEELING WEAK DANTIDURGA
SMILED.

A PHYSICIAN
MUST SPEAK
THE TRUTH TO
THE KING,
SIR.



TELL ME
HOW LONG I
WILL LIVE.

MAHARAJ, AS A
PHYSICIAN IT IS MY
DUTY TO GIVE
MEDICINE AND HOPE.
ALL OF US PRAY
FOR YOUR HEALTH.



AFTER THE PHYSICIAN LEFT—

YOU'D BETTER
REST,
DANTIDURGA...

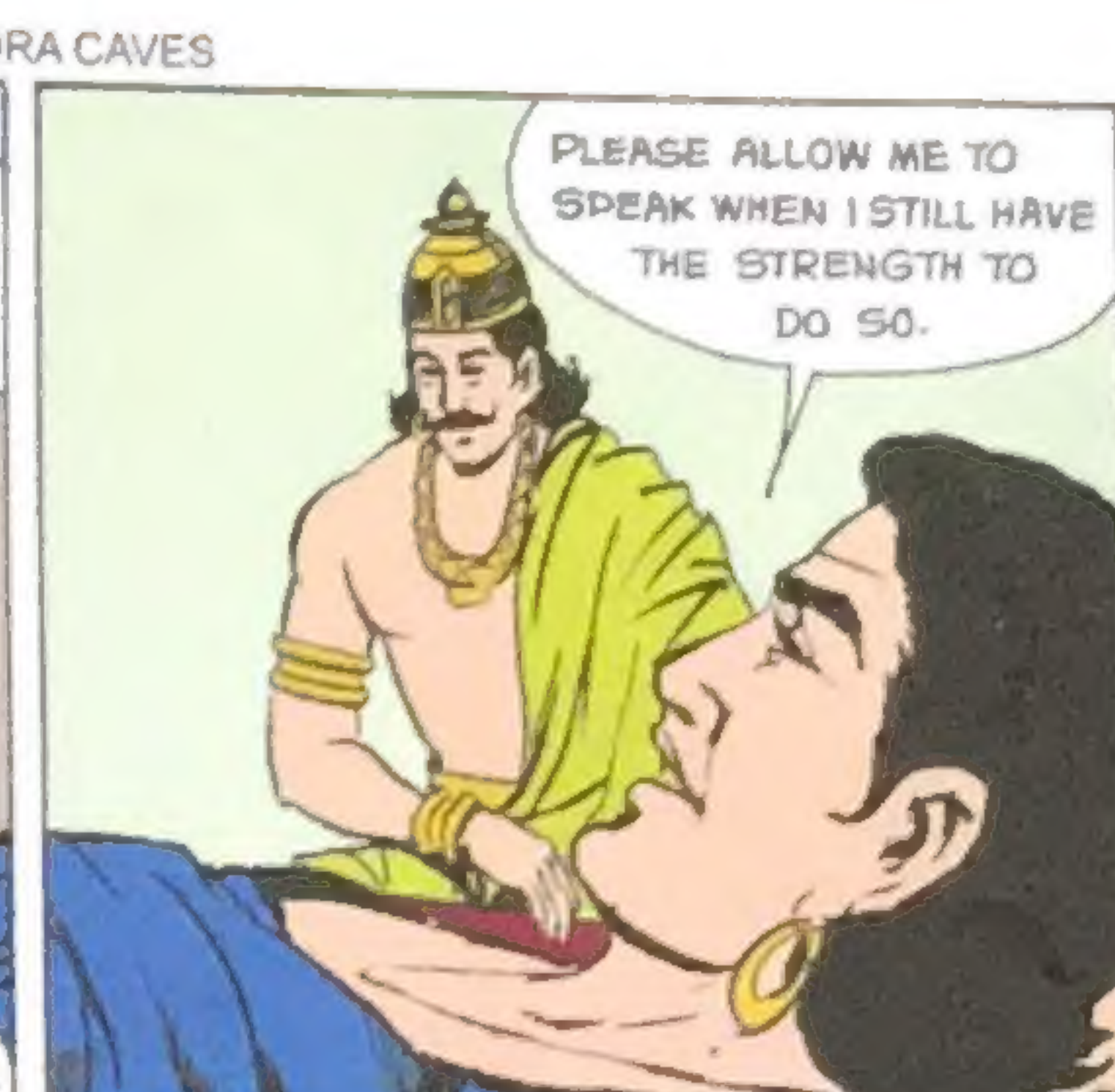
UNCLE, I
WOULD LIKE
YOU TO REMAIN
WITH ME.



WHEN THE TWO WERE LEFT ALONE—

UNCLE, YOU KNOW
I HAVE NO CHILD
AND HEIR TO THE
THRONE...

DANTIDURGA—
YOU MUST NOT...



PLEASE ALLOW ME TO
SPEAK WHEN I STILL HAVE
THE STRENGTH TO
DO SO.



WHEN FATHER DIED
YOU ASKED ME TO
SHOULDER THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF
THE KINGDOM...



... AND TO BRING
GLORY TO THE
RASHTRAKOOTAS!



EVEN AS I
LIE DYING...

DANTIDURGA!



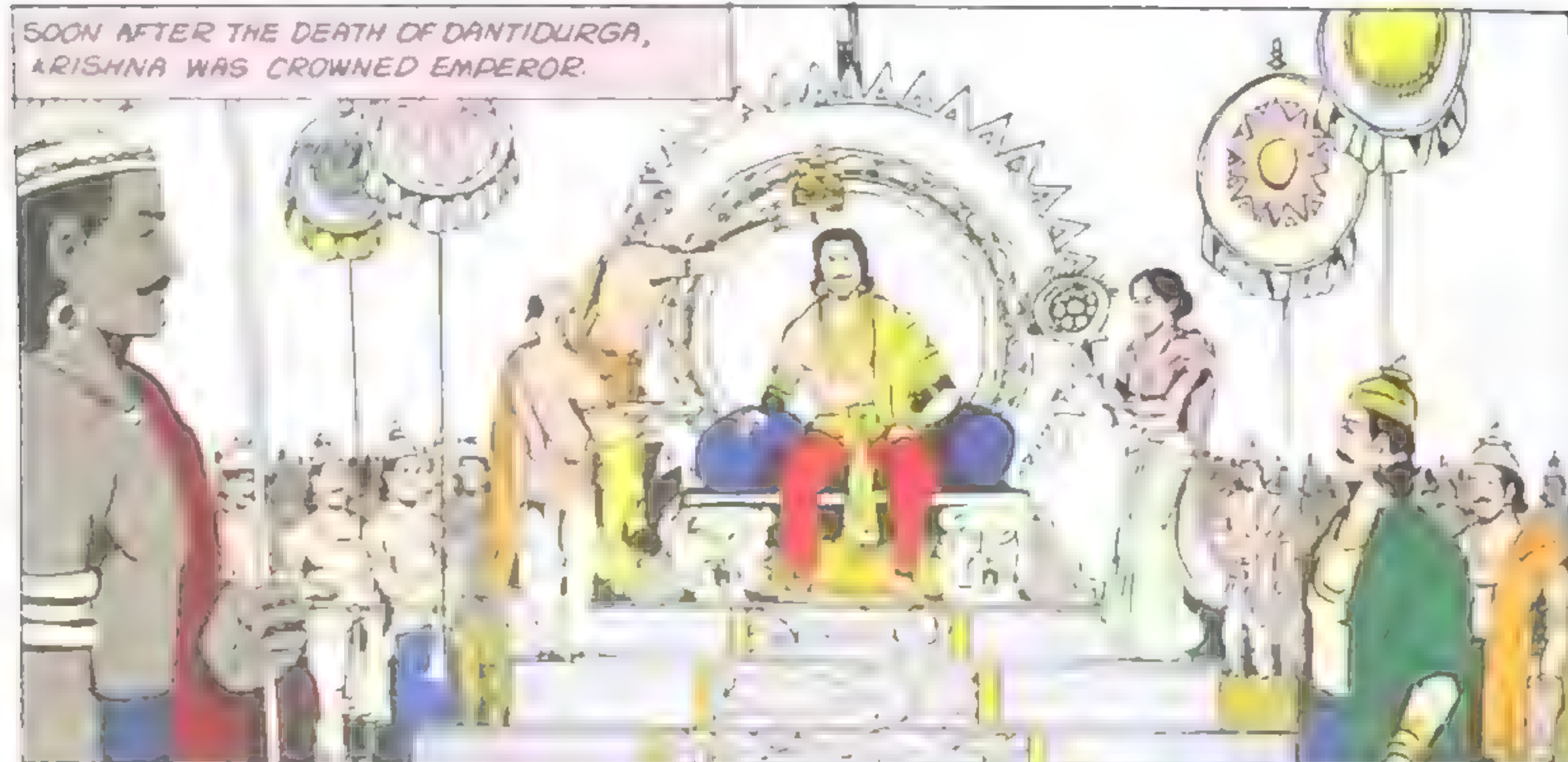
DANTIDURGA WAVED HIS HAND
AND CONTINUED.

I HAND OVER
THE REINS OF
THE KINGDOM
TO YOU...



... TO RULE,
TO CONQUER AND
TO BRING GLORY
TO THE
RASHTRAKOOTAS...

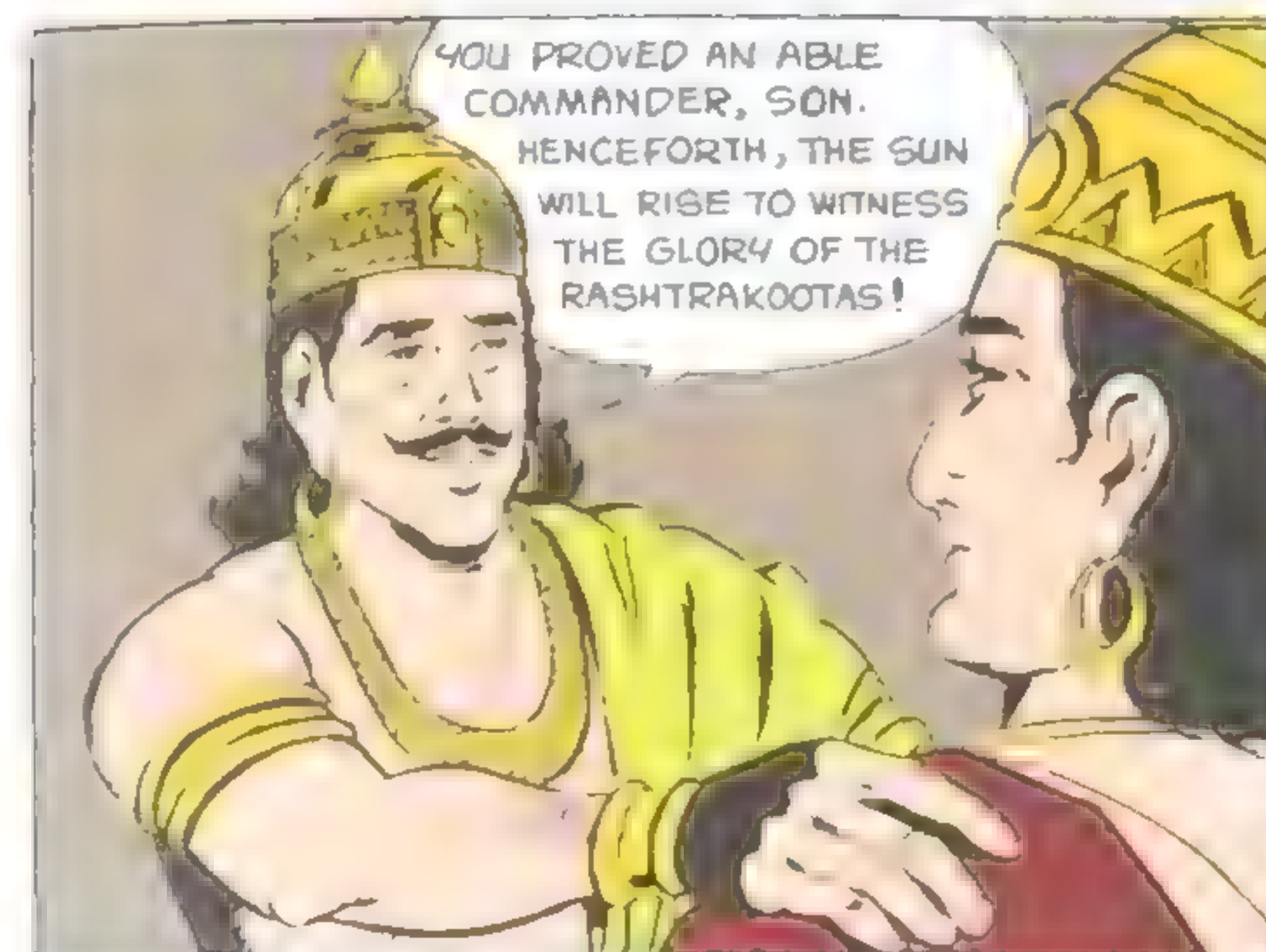
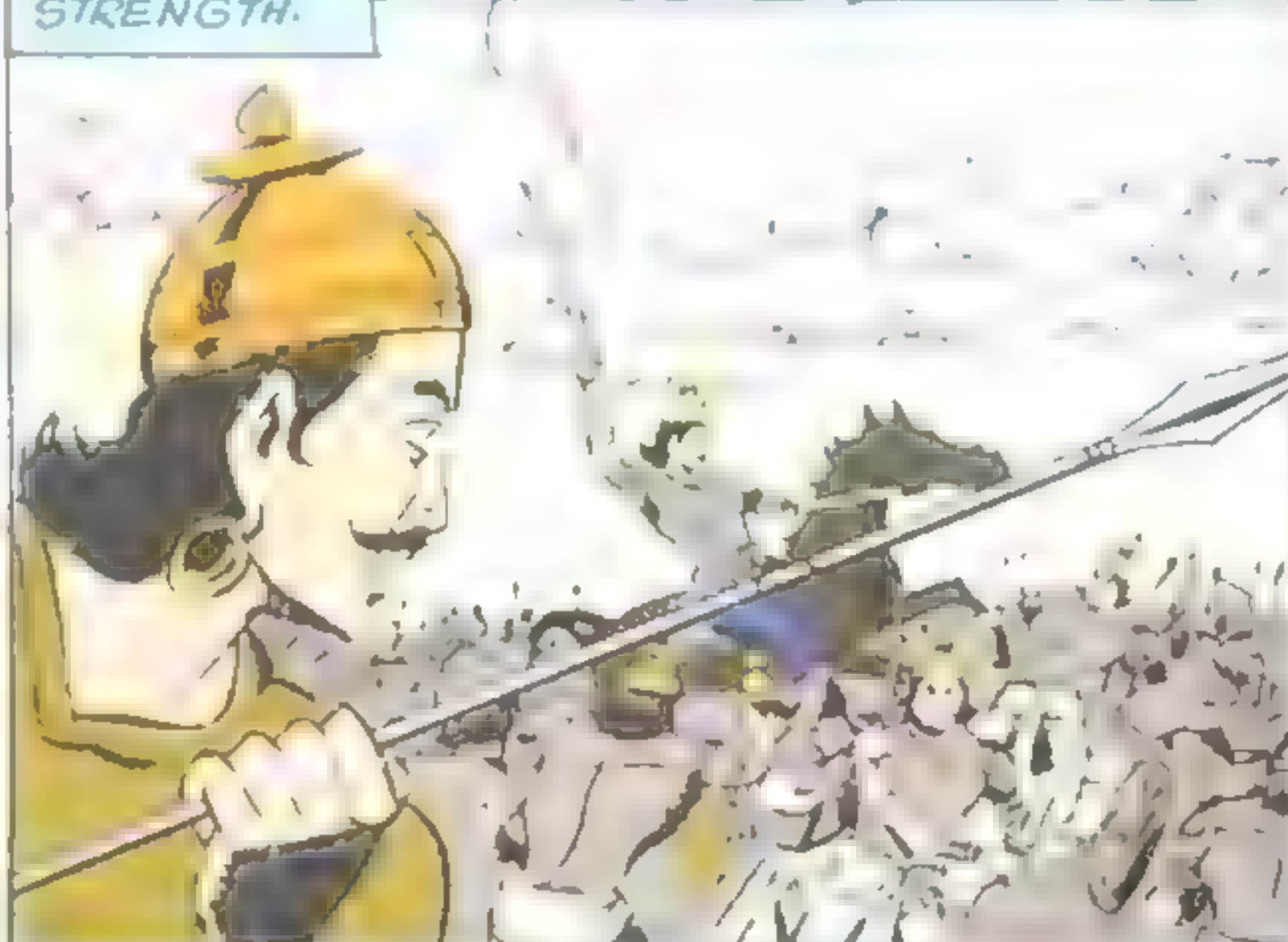
HAVING SETTLED THE MATTER
THUS, DANTIDURGA PASSED
AWAY IN PEACE.



KRISHNA APPOINTED HIS SON GOVINDA THE COMMANDER OF HIS FORCES.



AGAIN THE TWO GREAT POWERS MET IN A TRIAL OF STRENGTH.



GOVINDA ACCOMPLISHED HIS MISSION WITH REBOUNDED SUCCESS

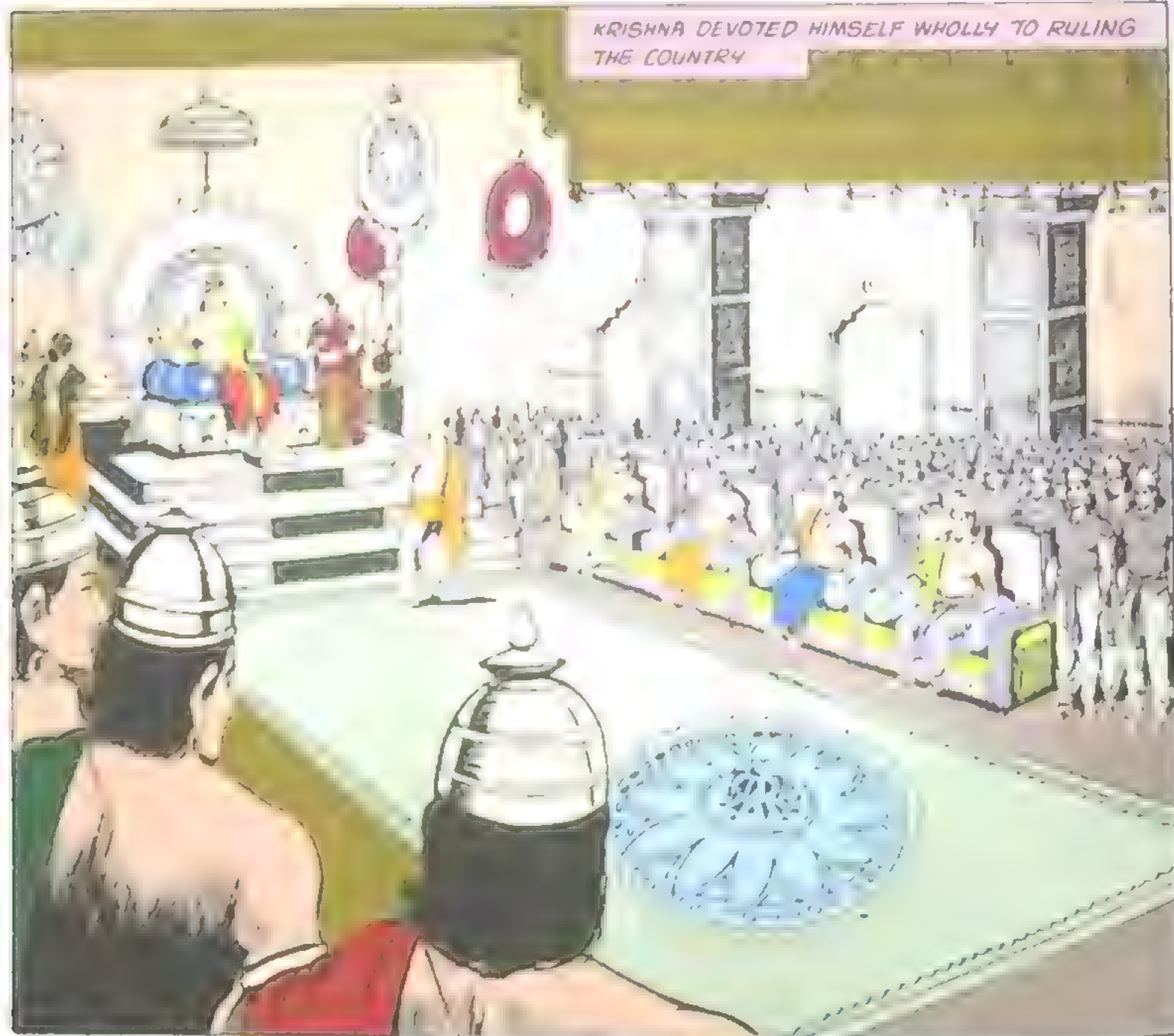


THEIR INFLUENCE STRETCHED OVER THE WHOLE OF CENTRAL INDIA, TO KARNATAKA, THE KONKAN AND ANDHRA.



THE RASHTRAKOOTAS WERE NOW THE GREATEST POWER IN THE LAND.

KRISHNA DEVOTED HIMSELF WHOLLY TO RULING THE COUNTRY



ONE DAY—

YOU SEEM TIRED, HUSBAND

YES, THE AFFAIRS OF STATE ARE VERY TAXING

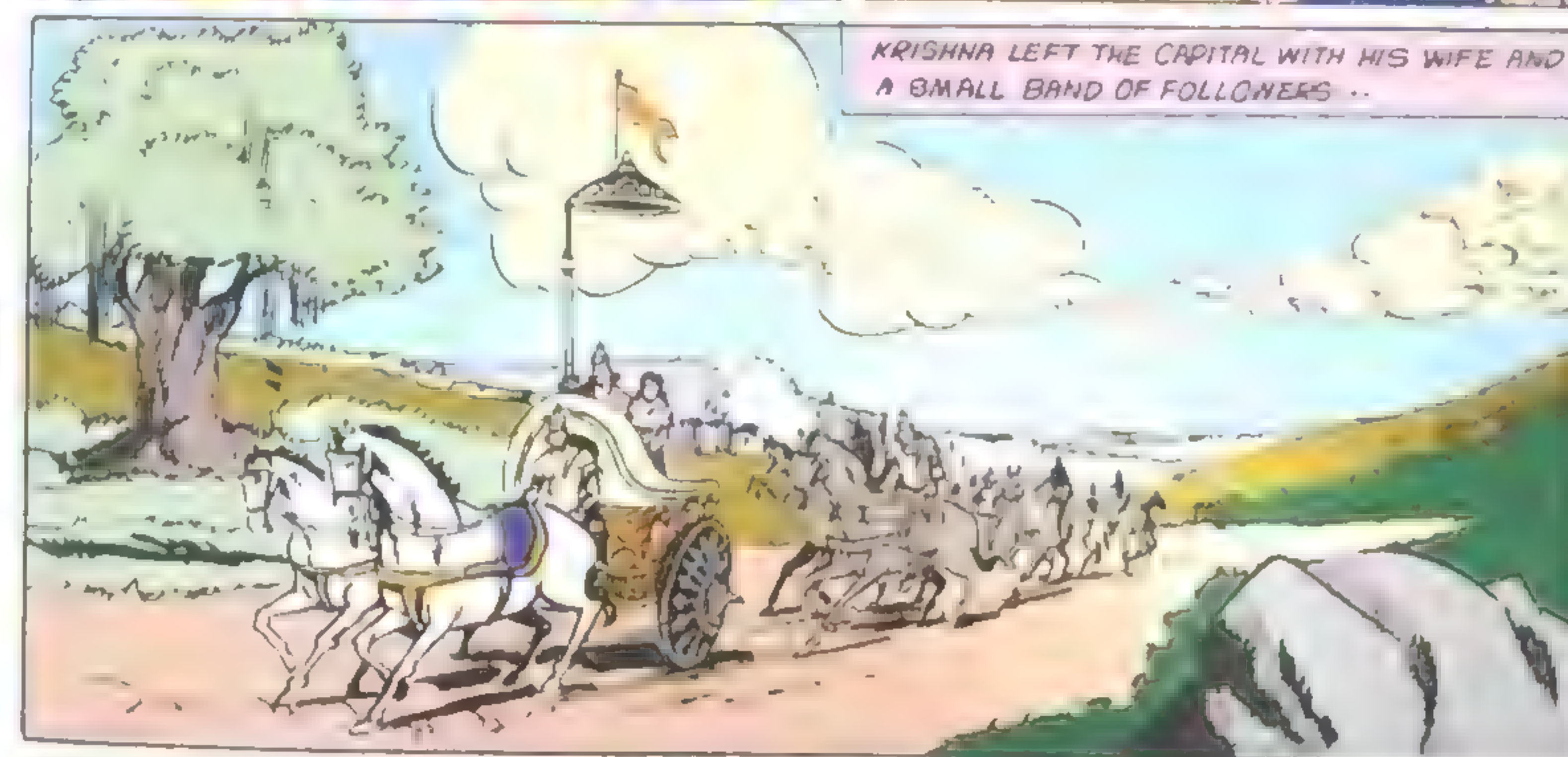


THEN LET US GET AWAY FROM IT FOR A FEW DAYS

YES! AND I KNOW JUST THE PLACE WHERE WE CAN RELAX



KRISHNA LEFT THE CAPITAL WITH HIS WIFE AND A SMALL BAND OF FOLLOWERS...

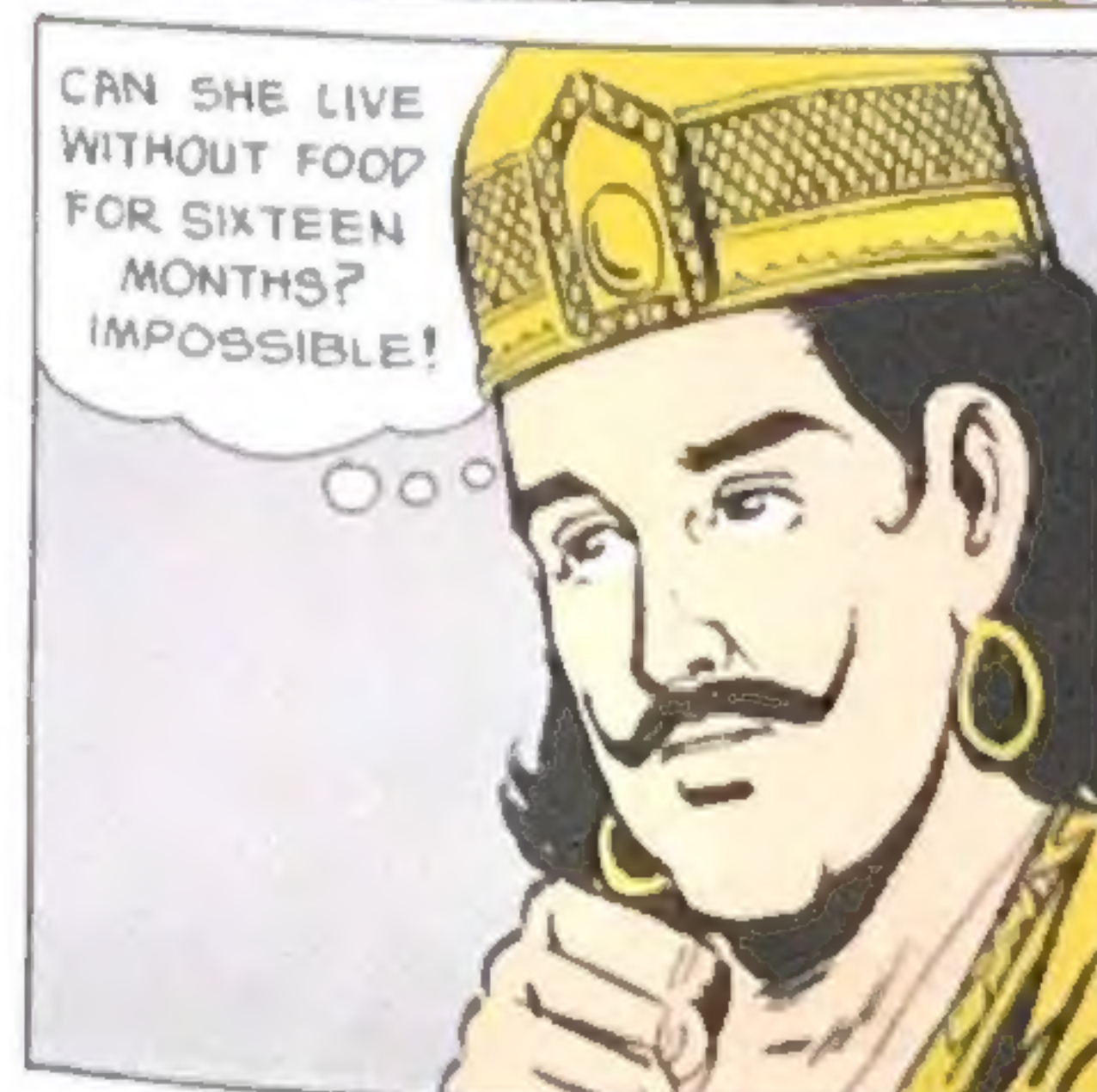
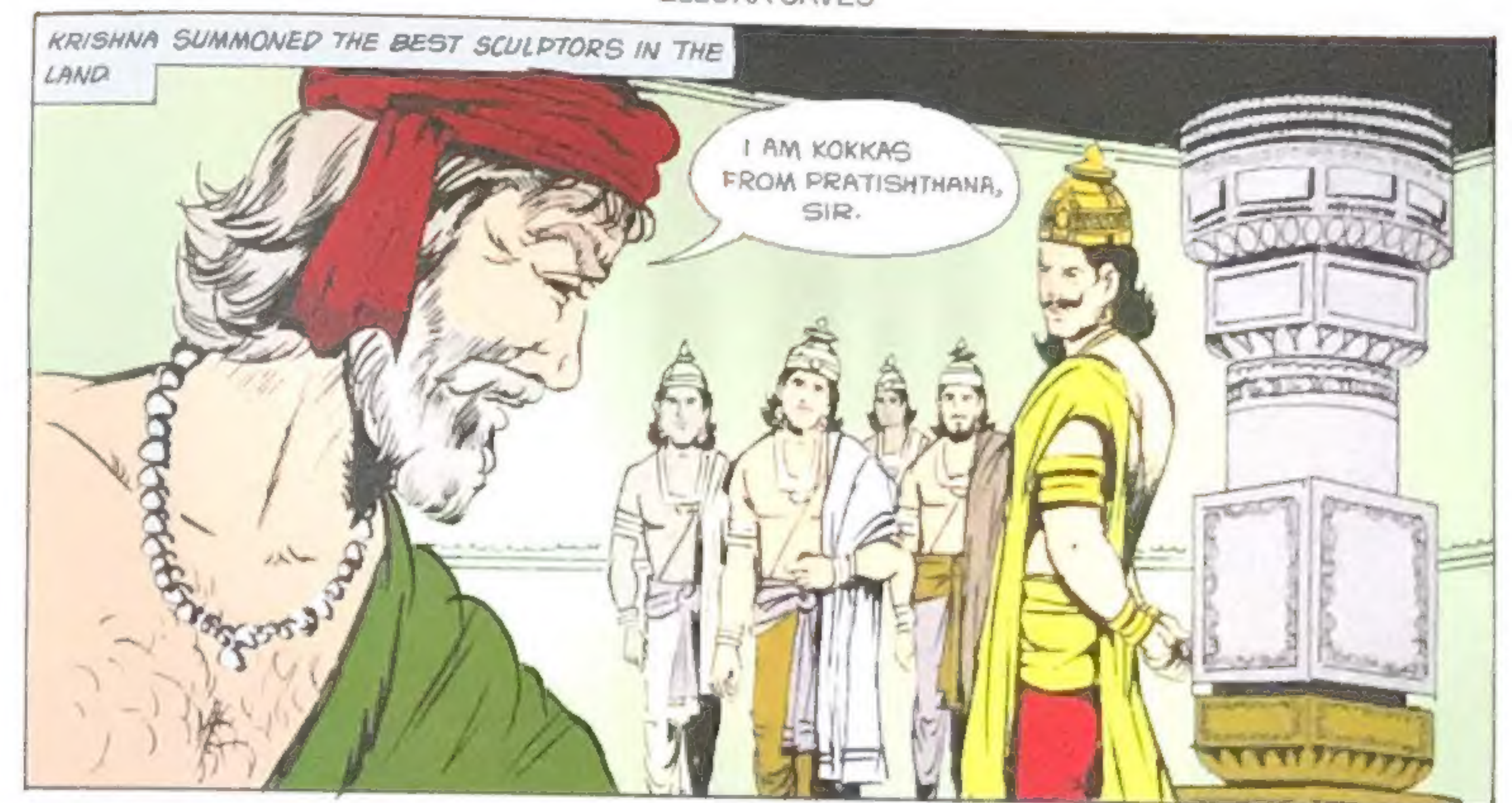
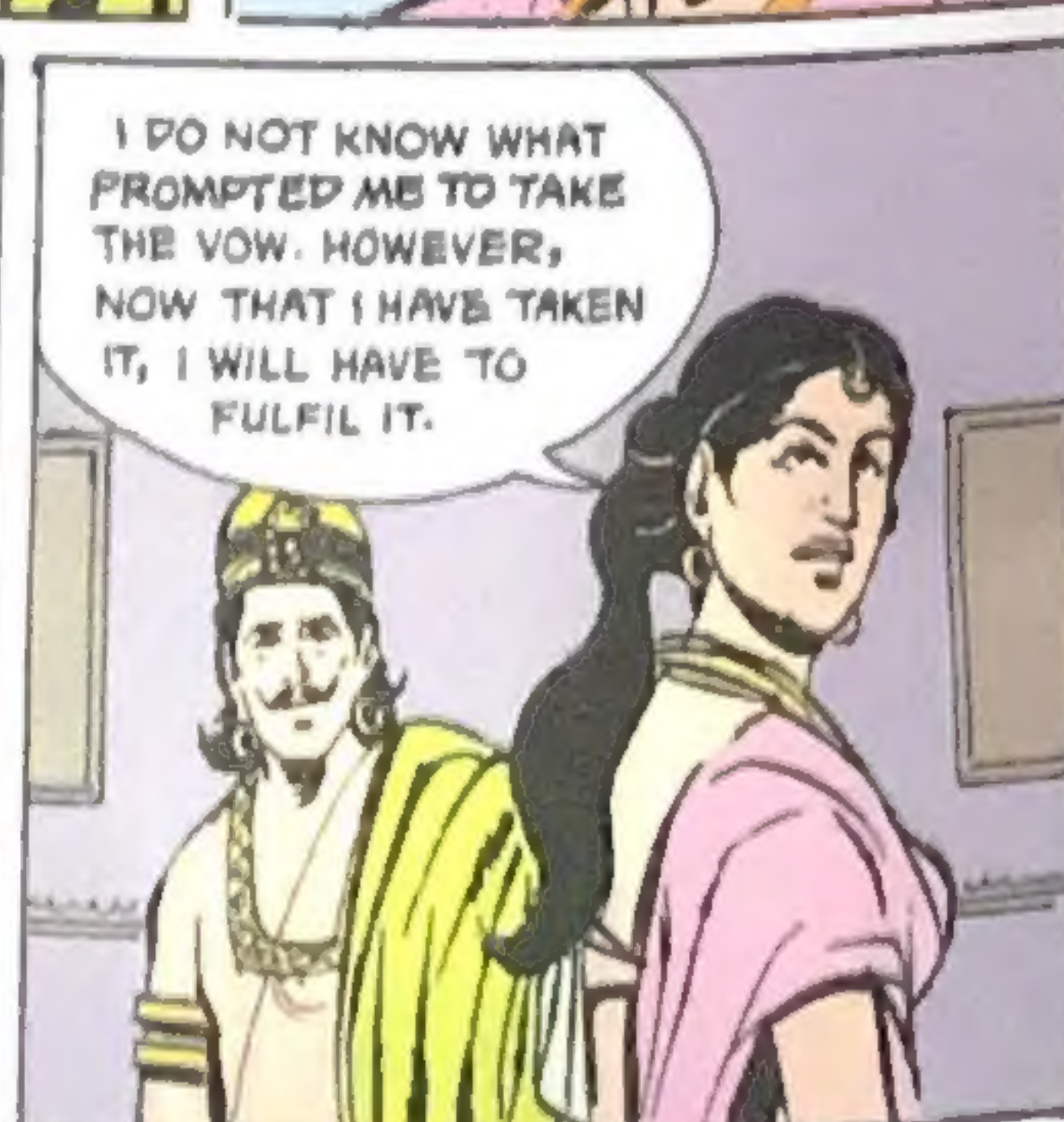
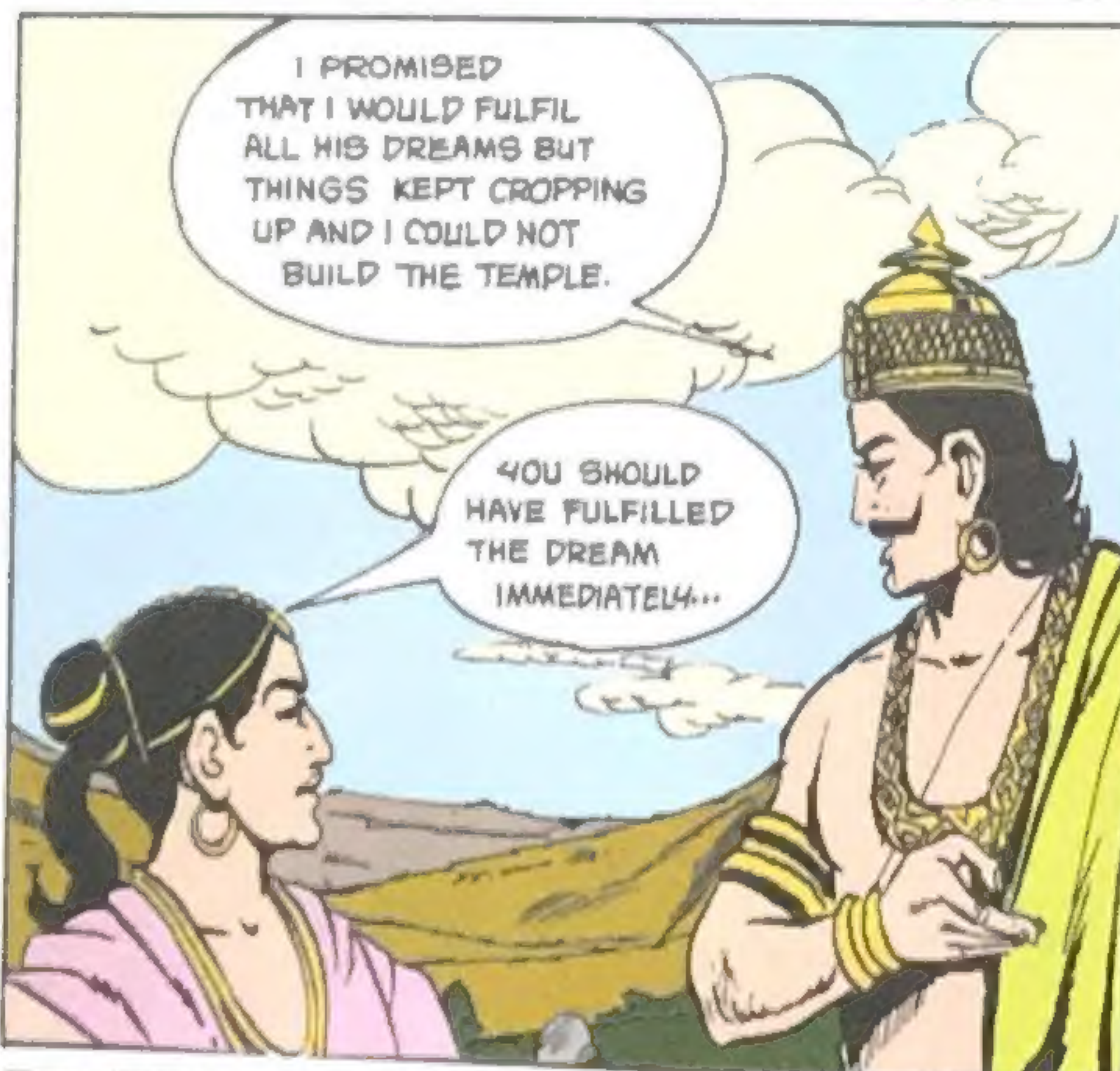
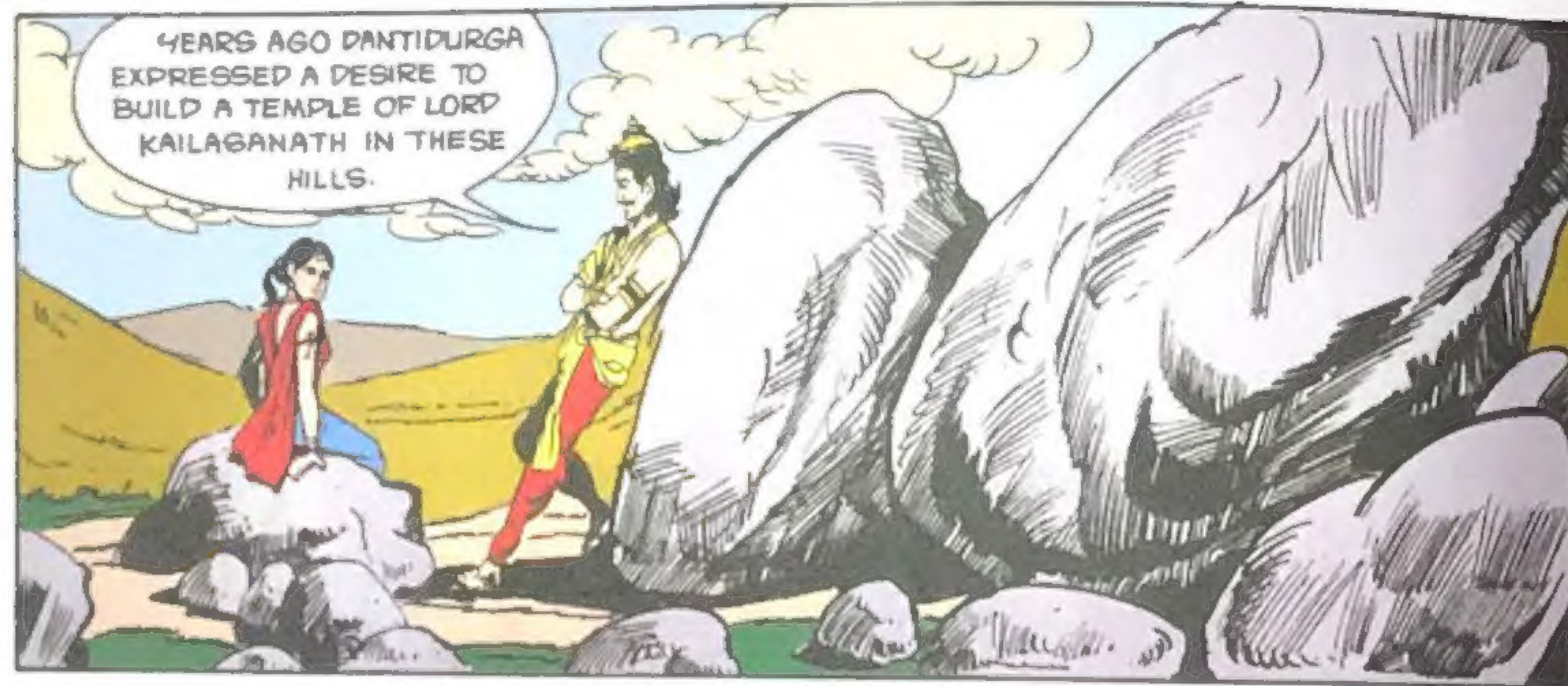


AND CAME TO ELLORA —

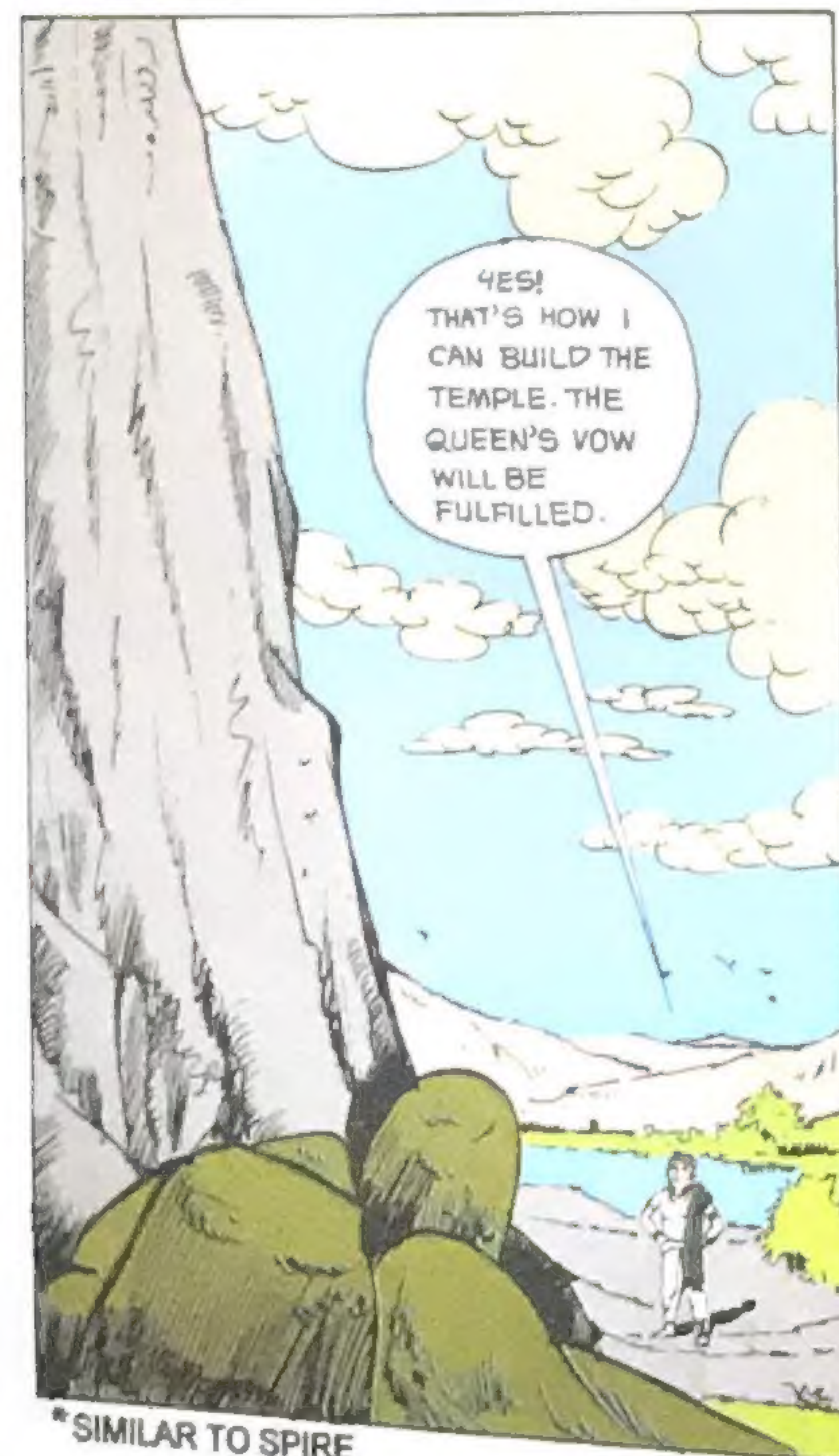
WHAT A SERENE PLACE THIS IS!

YES! I TOO FEEL SO



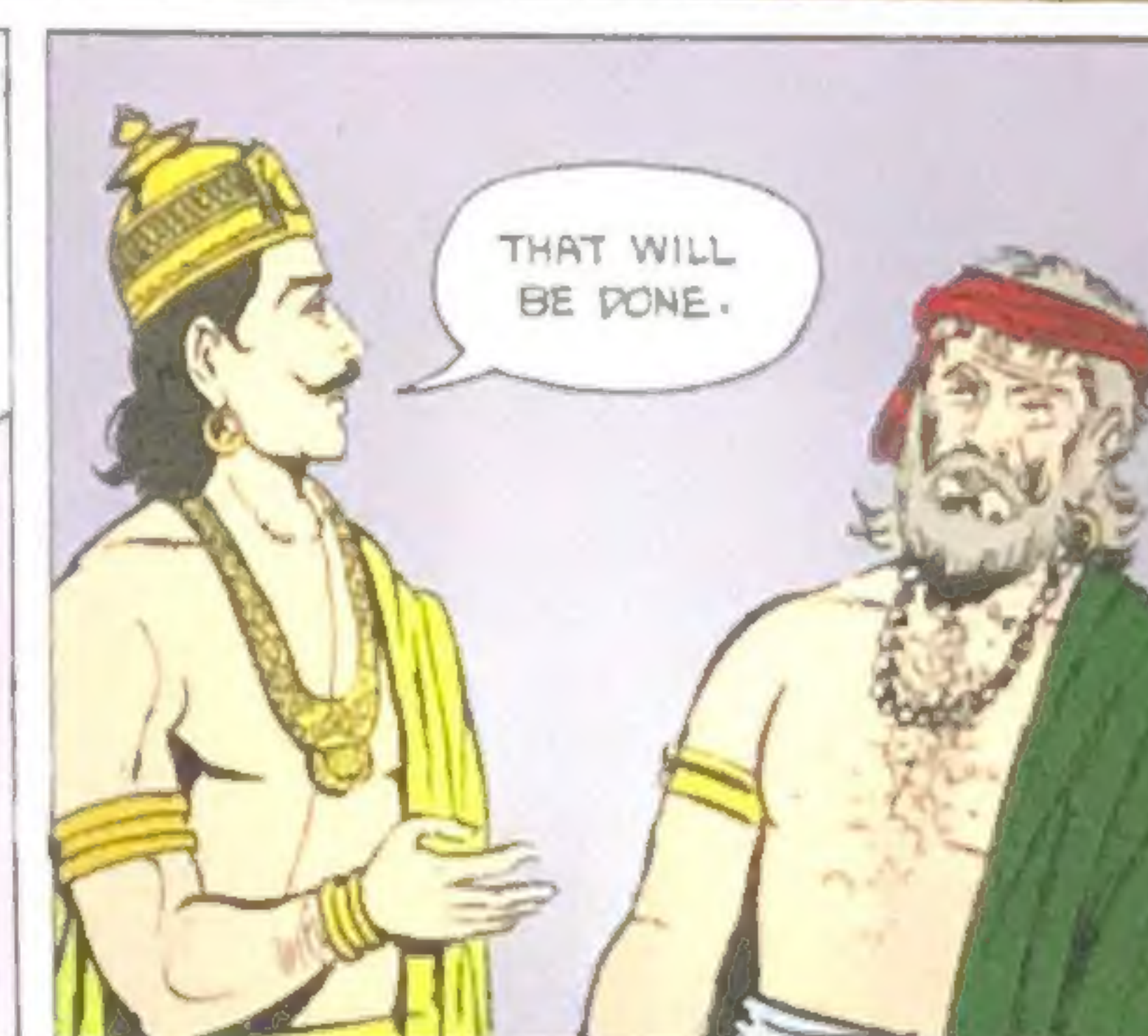
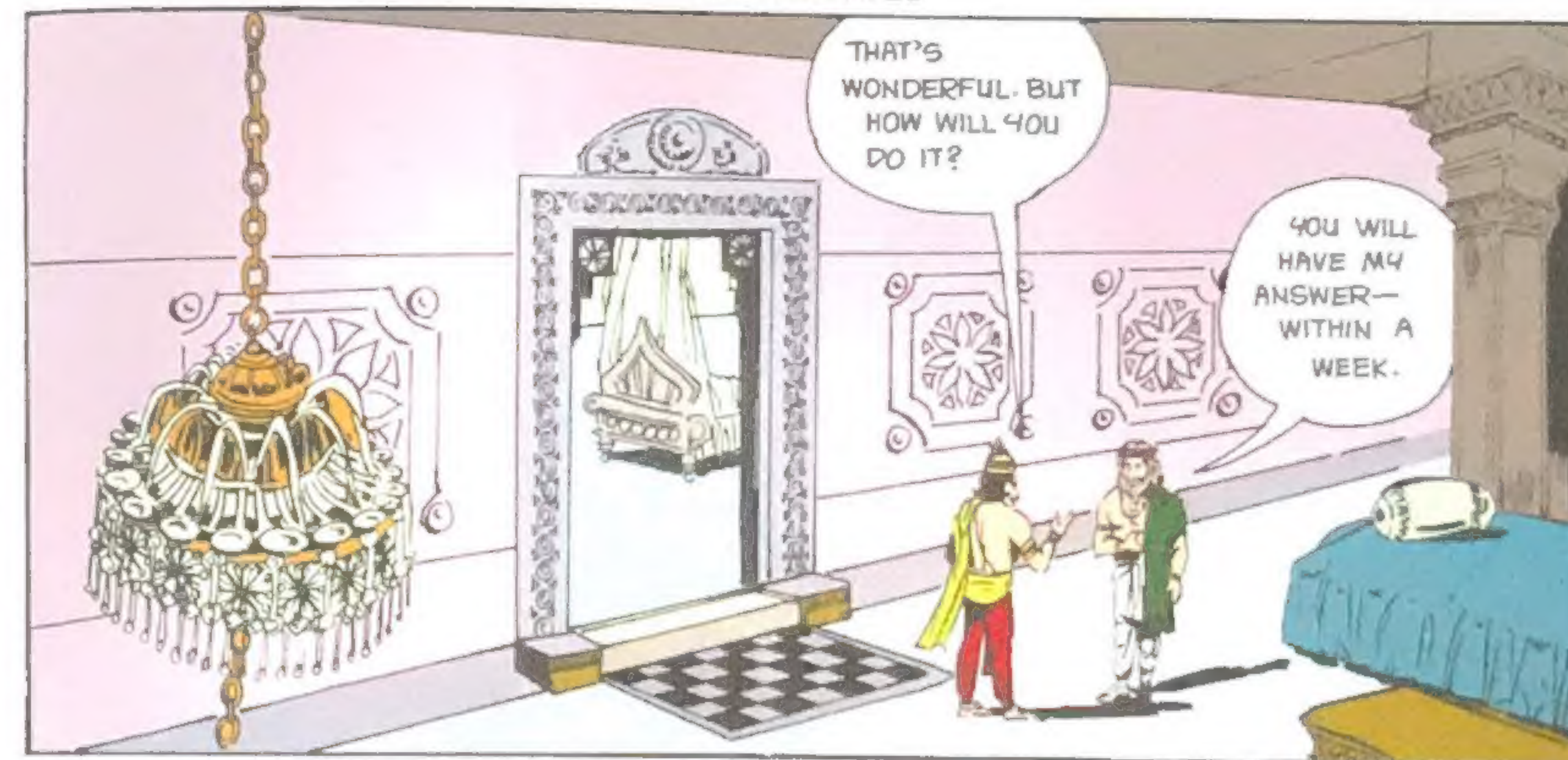


KOKKAS WENT TO THE SITE WHERE THE TEMPLE WAS TO BE BUILT AND STUDIED THE ROCK FORMATIONS.

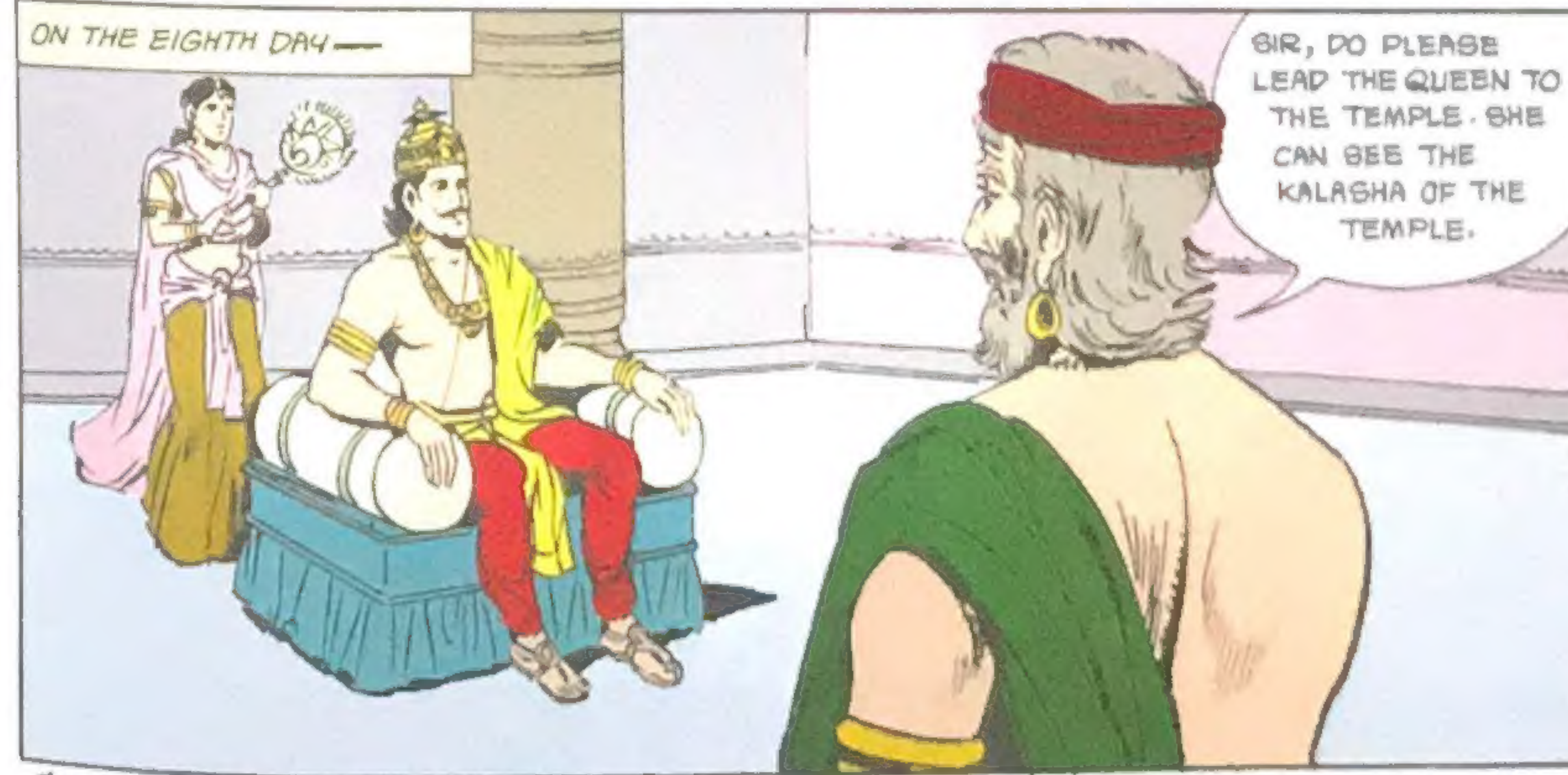


*SIMILAR TO SPIRE

AS THE KING ANXIOUSLY WAITED FOR THE SCULPTOR THE NEXT DAY—



ON THE EIGHTH DAY—



*ABOUT 3.5K.M.

ON THE TOP OF THE HILLOCK WAS A BEAUTIFULLY CARVED KALASHA AND AN ORANGE-COLOURED FLAG FLUTTERED IN THE BREEZE.

THERE IS THE KALASHA, YOUR MAJESTY.

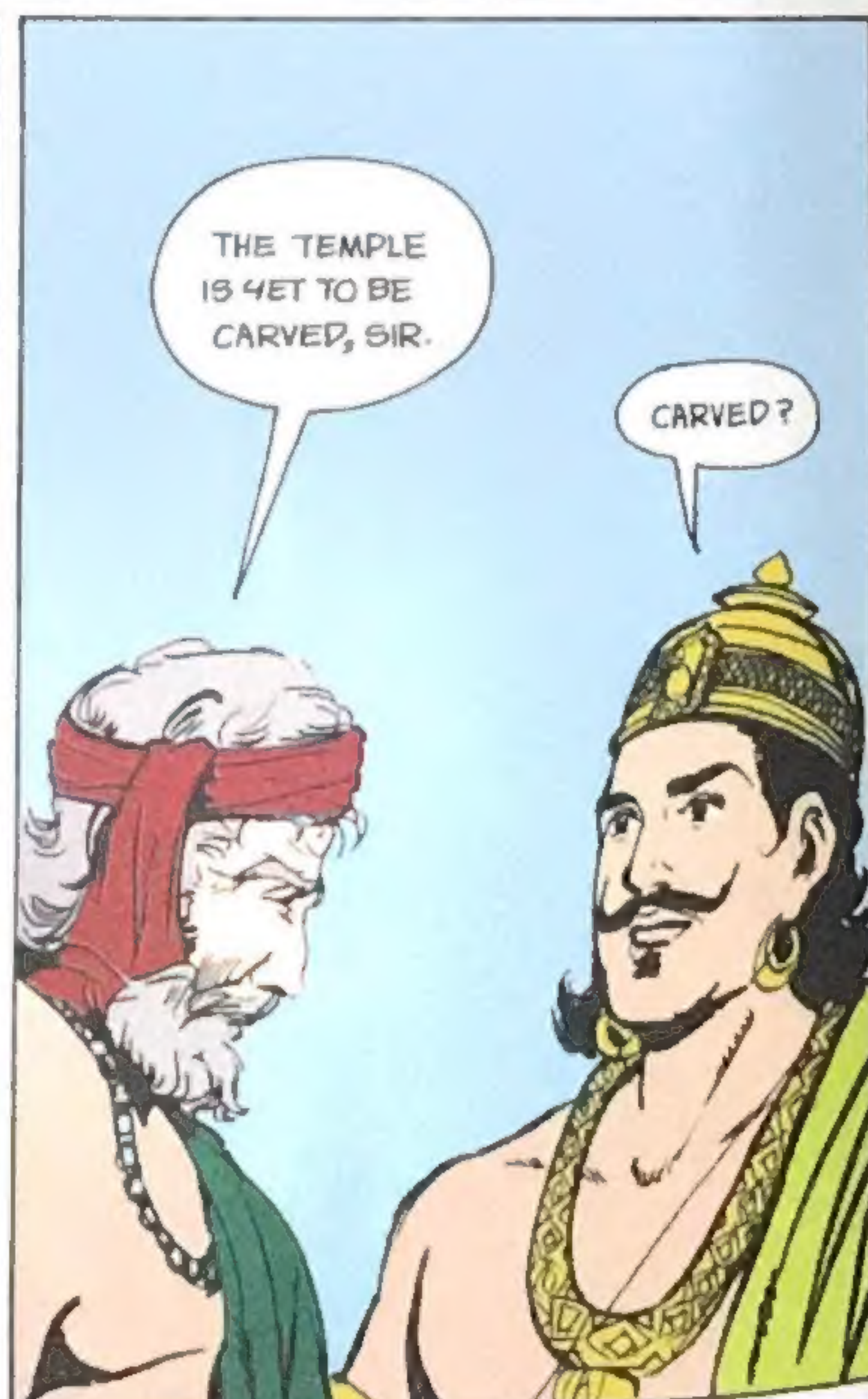


THE VOW IS FULFILLED, TRUE, BUT IT IS A TRICK! WHERE IS THE TEMPLE?



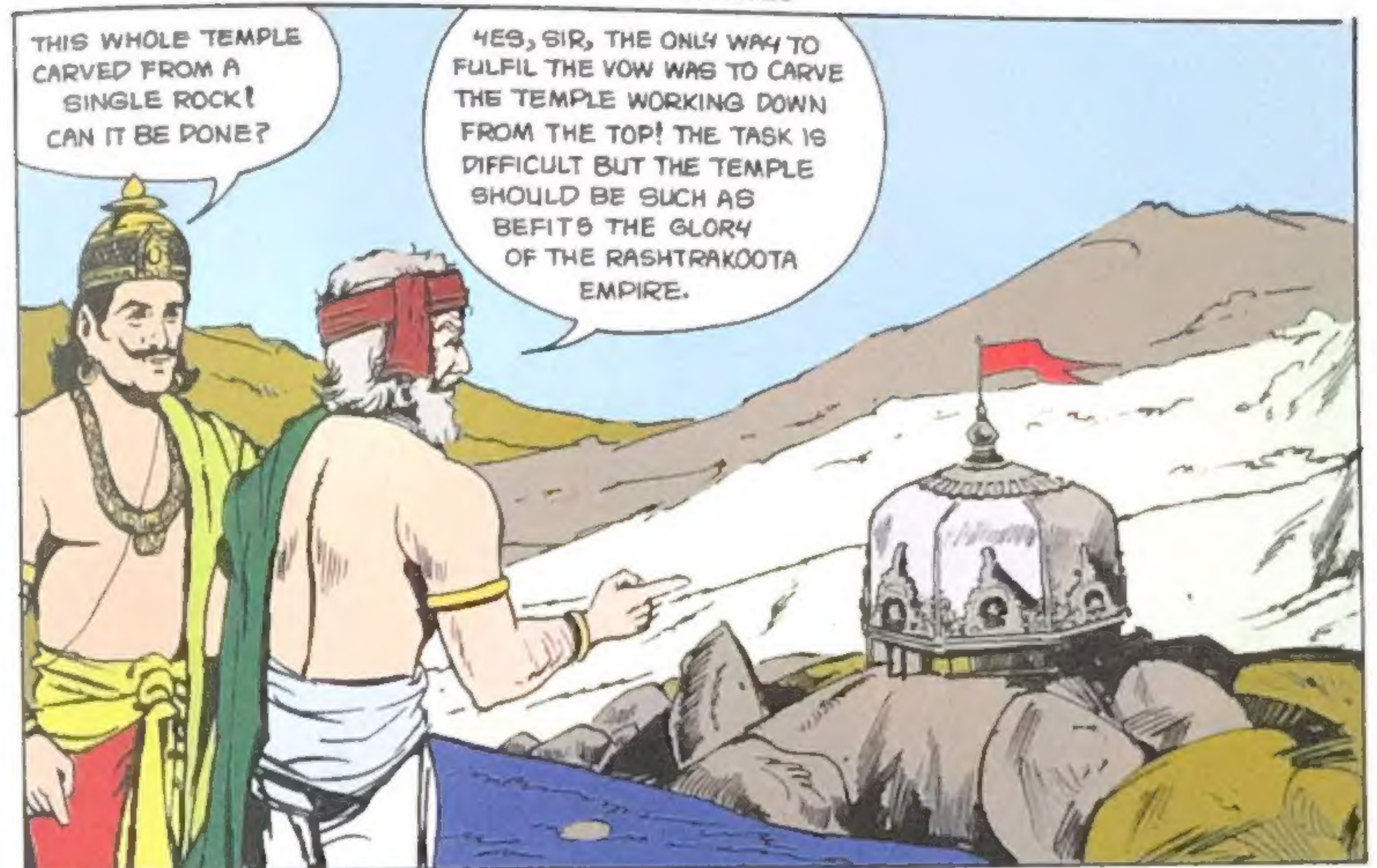
THE TEMPLE IS YET TO BE CARVED, SIR.

CARVED?

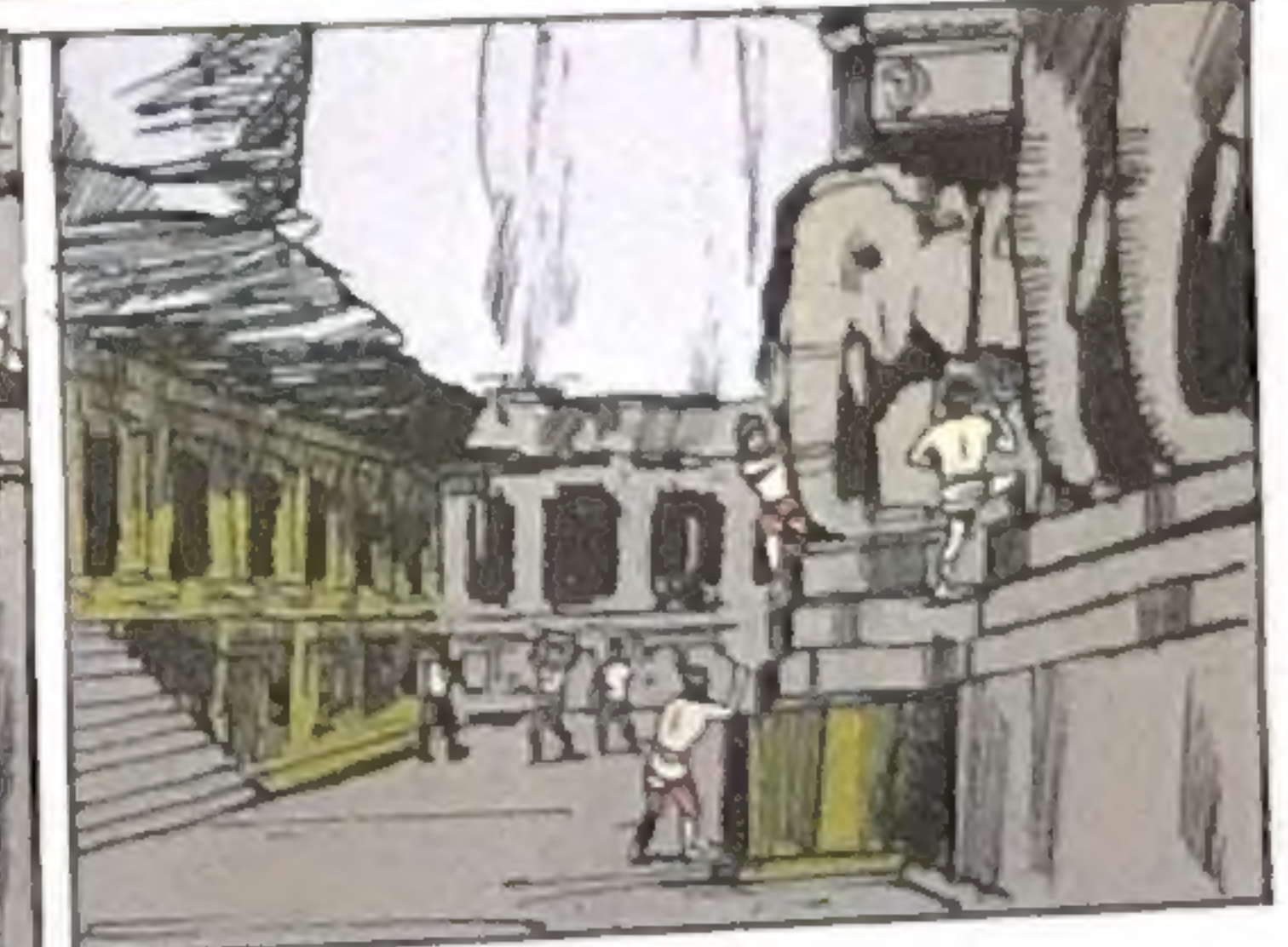


THIS WHOLE TEMPLE CARVED FROM A SINGLE ROCK! CAN IT BE DONE?

YES, SIR, THE ONLY WAY TO FULFIL THE VOW WAS TO CARVE THE TEMPLE WORKING DOWN FROM THE TOP! THE TASK IS DIFFICULT BUT THE TEMPLE SHOULD BE SUCH AS BEFITS THE GLORY OF THE RASHTRAKOOTA EMPIRE.



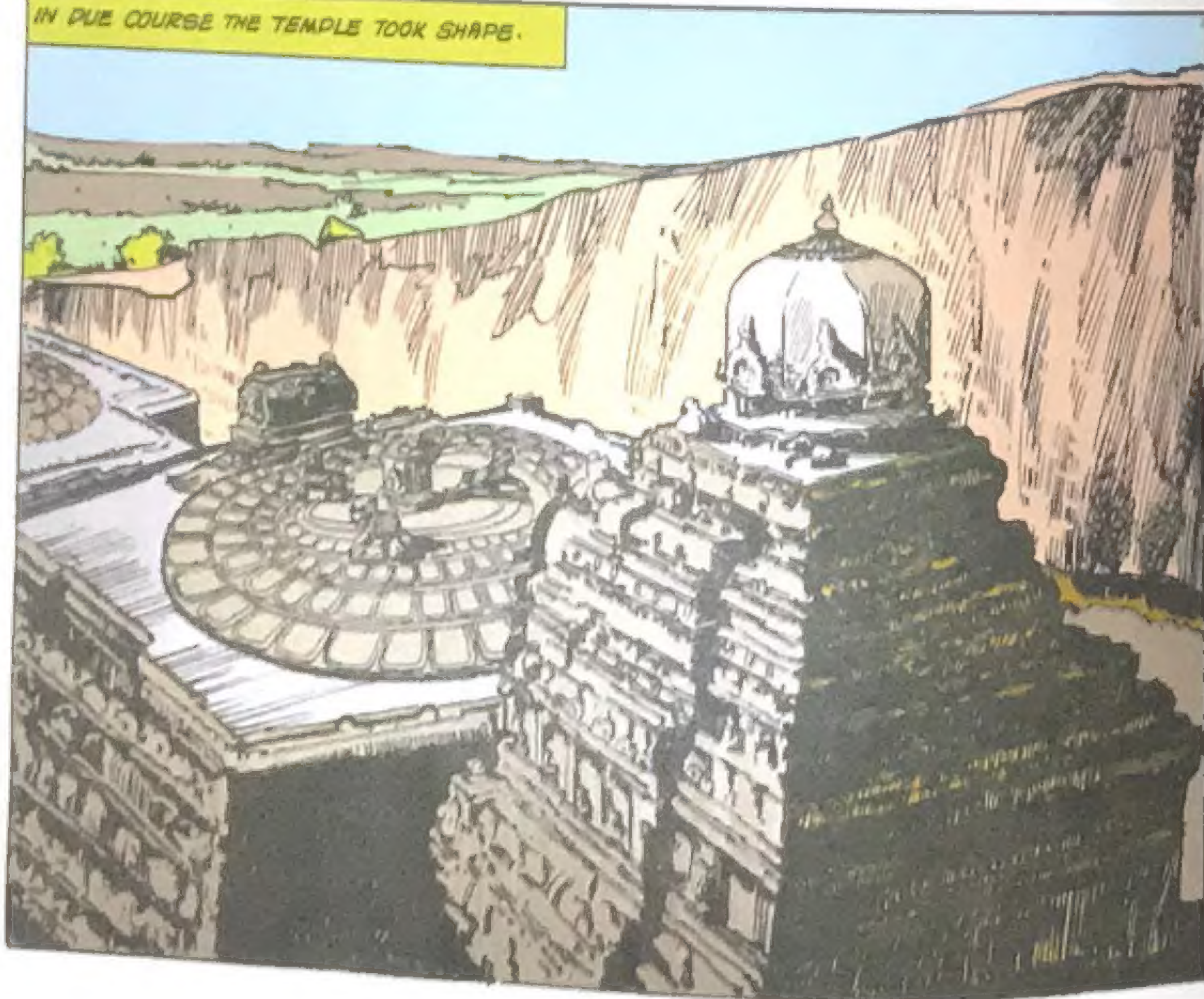
KOKKAS WITH HIS SEVEN THOUSAND ARTISANS SET ABOUT TO BUILD THE KAILASANATH TEMPLE—



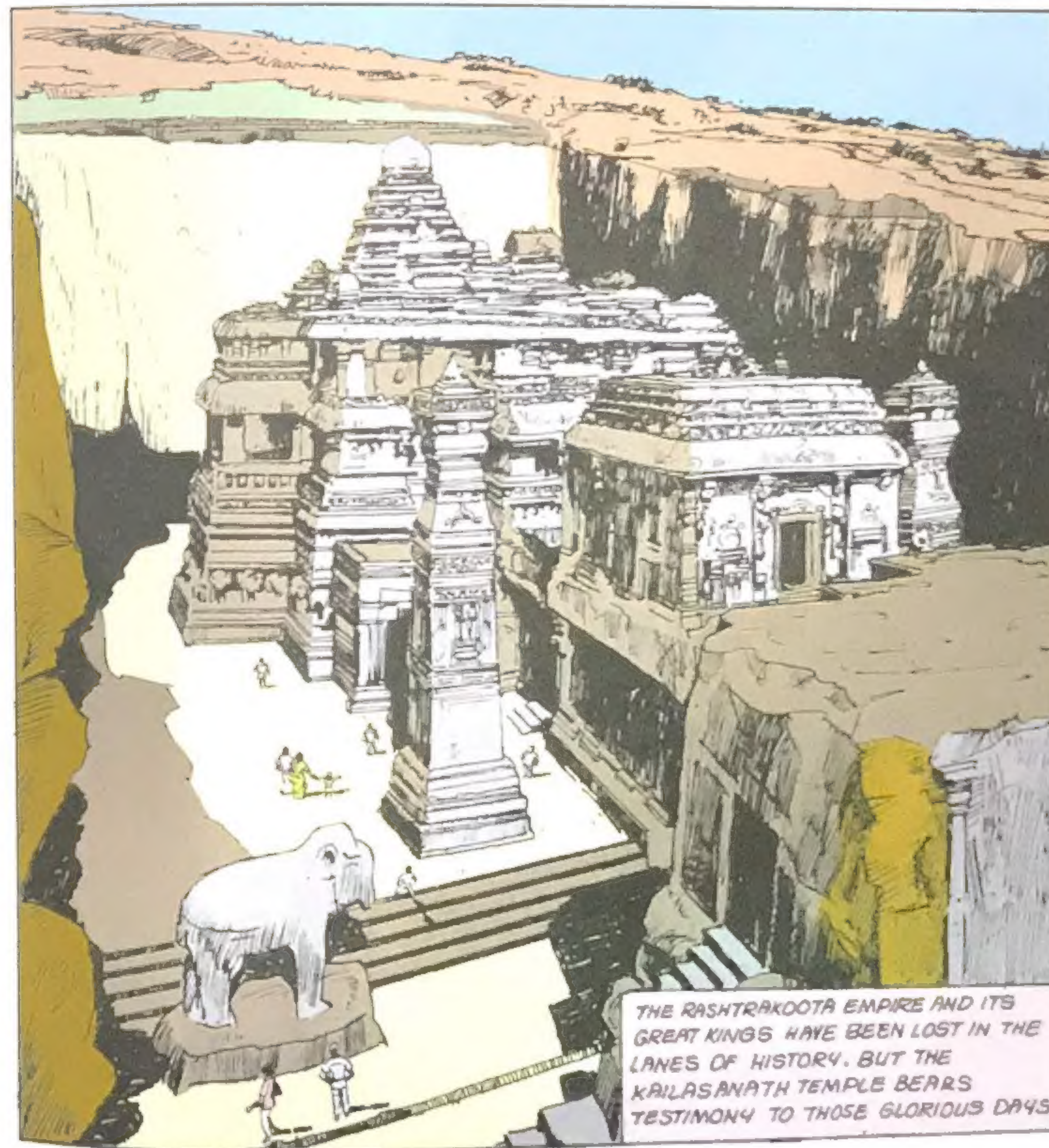
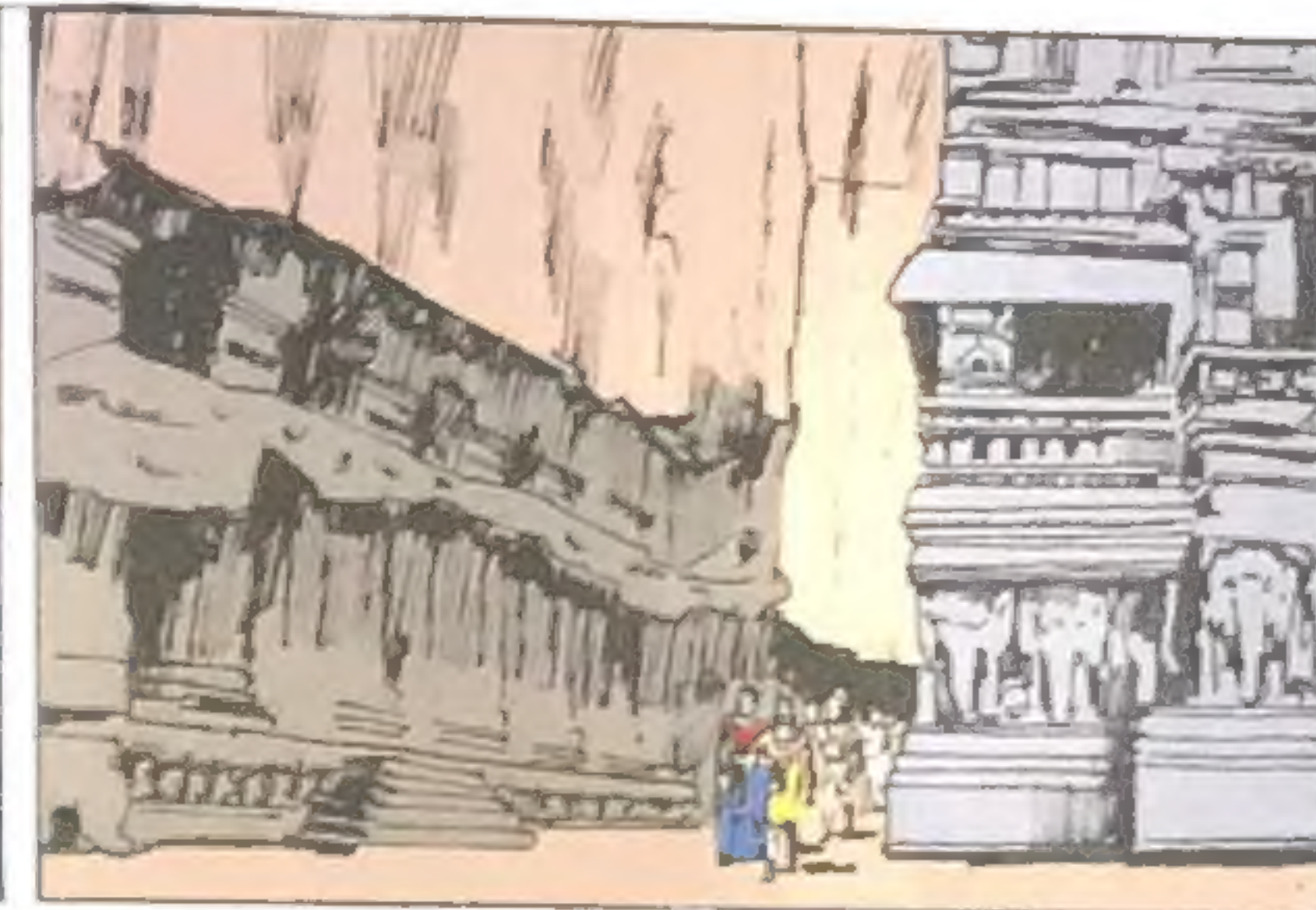
THE KING CAME FREQUENTLY TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK —



IN DUE COURSE THE TEMPLE TOOK SHAPE.



THE CONSECRATION OF THE TEMPLE WAS PERFORMED WITH APPROPRIATE RITES.



THE RASHTRAKOOTA EMPIRE AND ITS GREAT KINGS HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE LANES OF HISTORY. BUT THE KAILASANATH TEMPLE BEARS TESTIMONY TO THOSE GLORIOUS DAYS.